

25 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Awarding Year 11 grades**

I hope you are all well and preparing for the Easter holiday, when I hope you can begin to safely see your loved ones. I am writing to update you on the information regarding the awarding of GCSEs and other qualifications in the summer. At present the exam boards and Ofqual have indicated that they will be releasing further material to schools and pupils on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Once we have been able to digest this and look at the procedures and materials supplied, I will write again with further information.

As it stands all departments have been told that they must collect as much evidence as possible to ensure that pupils are able to be awarded the grade they deserve. To this end, teachers are planning assessed pieces of work which will be done as part of lessons under controlled conditions to ensure that it is the pupil's own work. Heads of Department are mapping out these assessed pieces so that they can ensure that the necessary teaching content is covered. Teachers will be giving pupils direction on work to be doing over the Easter break to ensure they are prepared for these assessments. The vocational subjects, such as BTECs, are continuing to work on their coursework units and the teachers have given directions to pupils on what they should be working on.

As we move into the summer term it is absolutely crucial that year 11 are in school every day and take a full part in lessons. They have to play their part in helping our teachers to collect the evidence they need. Attendance for year 11 has been generally good but there are pupils who are regularly missing days, and this has the potential to damage their chances of achieving the grade they deserve.

I recognise that the year 11 pupils have dealt with a lot of uncertainty in the past months and may be feeling jaded by the experience that they have had. I am immensely proud of them and I would urge them to continue to work hard, as I know many have been doing throughout the lockdowns. I am confident that with the support of the teachers they will be successful in their efforts. I look forward to celebrating their achievements with them in August.

I will be in touch again when we have more information, until then if you have any questions, please contact either myself or Mr Williams.

Yours sincerely



David Chapman  
Senior Assistant Principal

