

Dear Parents/Carer,

Upon our return to school, we have been incredibly impressed by the attitude and work ethic Year 11 have demonstrated to date. It is clear that each and every student is committed to reaching the aspirational targets they set themselves last academic year.

In these uncertain times the Government, DFE and therefore our school leadership team are responding to an ever-changing situation. At the time of writing, in English schools, the 2021 exam season will go ahead, but the dates of these exams are yet to be confirmed. In Scotland, there is currently discussion around reducing the number of exams students will complete or cancelling exams totally and using centre assessed grades again.

Given the level of uncertainty it is prudent we plan for all eventualities. We will continue to prepare students for the summer exams, providing additional support and intervention where this is needed. Alongside this, we will continue to assess the progress of students regularly and carry out regular, robust internal assessments and mock exams. Should the situation arise where we need to provide centre assessed grades or rankings for the 2021 exam season, like this year, we will be able to do so fairly and accurately.

The consequence of this is that our students need to take all assessments and mock exams far more seriously than they have in previous years. Performance on all assessments across year 11 will be evidence that is considered should we need to determine centre assessed grades and rankings. To help you understand your child's progress, we will provide assessment scores as a percentage and the average score for the year group alongside the usual 'On Track For' grade and areas for improvement on reports.

Year 11 mock exams are scheduled to run for two weeks from Wednesday 2nd December until 16th December. The 17th and 18th December are contingency days. In the event that we are unable to run the mock exams, the week beginning 4th January is our contingency week. Mock timetables and further guidance for students will be shared after October half term.

We are awaiting confirmation from the DFE of the budget allocated to us from the COVID recovery scheme and will ensure we utilise this effectively to support our students. Our initial plans are to address loss of learning in practical subjects and gaps in knowledge identified by our first round of assessments, we will of course keep parents informed of these plans.

Should the situation regarding the 2021 exams change, we will keep you updated. My thanks again for your continued support and should you have any questions please contact enquiries@greatsankey.org and a member of staff will be in contact.

Yours Faithfully

Mrs C Kane

Deputy Headteacher