



LITTLE ILFORD SCHOOL

COURAGE • COMMITMENT • COMPASSION

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4th February 2021

Dear Year 11 parents/carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you and yours are coping with the stresses of lockdown. I have been very pleased with the engagement of year 11 in live lessons.

I have heard that some parents have been putting teachers under pressure to change college grades during the phone calls to parents this week. Whilst, as a parent myself, I understand the instinct to gain the best possible outcome for your child, I would ask you not to do this for the following reasons.

The grades have been moderated at departmental and senior leadership level to ensure that they are as reliable as possible in the circumstances. All schools are, of course, in a very difficult situation in regard to college grades because the opportunities to test students in controlled conditions in lessons and exams have been greatly reduced from what we have ever known. Online testing is fraught with difficulty due to the opportunities for copying work. Depending on when secondary schools return, we may have the chance to get a much fuller picture with supervised testing. That is the reason for the cautious wording in the letter that accompanied the grades.

A frequent misunderstanding that occurs is when people think that set two is the second highest class in the year and that set 3 is the third highest. This isn't true, because there are two of each set due to the division of the timetable. This means that set two children, for instance, would effectively fall within the bracket of 50 - 100 in the year group. The same thing applies for set 3 etc. This misunderstanding can lead to unrealistic expectations of college grades.

Please do refer back to the letter that we sent out about college grades to see the rationale that was applied and if you have any questions please contact me. I do understand that this is a very difficult time for everybody and wish you all well.

Yours faithfully

Ian Wilson

“... an excellent ambassador for community cohesion within the locality - OFSTED”

