



ASTLEY COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

One of the Seaton Valley Federation of Schools

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Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

Head of School: Graham Scott

Our Ref : GS/Year11 Trial Exams 01.10.2020

1st October 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to inform you that we have made the decision to go ahead with a full programme of trial examinations for year 11 students, which will take place during the weeks commencing 9th and 16th November.

Our decision to proceed is based on three very important reasons:

1. To provide year 11 students with a full experience of sitting examinations in the sports hall and gym under strict exam conditions. Having missed year 10 exams in the summer, this will hopefully provide a realistic situation for all students and get them used to the demands of the examination process.
2. To test students with robust examination papers, which will provide staff with important data should we be required to submit Centre Assessed Grades to exam boards in any form this academic year. We do not know what the next few months will bring for us all and we hope that students will be able to sit final examinations in summer 2021, however, we also need to have a "plan B" and consider the possibility of having to use "predicted grades" again.
3. Students' performance in these trial examinations will also allow us to see any gaps in learning and make decisions about examination entries. We will also be able to identify any intervention needed to improve performance.

So, in summary, more so than ever before, these trial examinations are very important indeed and we would like you to support us in ensuring that your son/daughter recognises this and prepares for them thoroughly. We need the students to work hard and take the exams very seriously. Staff will be providing all year 11 students with revision lists and material to support their learning, but the students must do their bit too and do the best that they can.

More details about the whole process will come out in due course, including the full two week timetable and examination protocol. Information about the purchase of revision guides will be sent out in a further communication to support students in their preparations.

Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Kind regards

Graham Scott
Head of School