

17 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Y11 PARENTS' EVENING – THURSDAY 18 MARCH 2021**

As stated in my letter dated 5 March 2021, we are really looking forward to discussing the way ahead with you tomorrow evening at our **Year 11 Parents' Evening**.

Without wishing to repeat information, this is obviously a very different situation than we would normally have with regard to examination processes in Year 11 and as such could I politely request that parents/carers do not attempt to discuss final grades with the teaching staff.

The reason for this is that all examination boards have malpractice rules and any conversations that take place regarding final grades could be interpreted as students (or parents/carers) placing pressure on teachers to award certain grades. Last year we successfully framed our conversations away from final grades and we must do the same this year.

The reason that I mention this to you again is so that time is not wasted during your discussions tomorrow and you can use your time to fully understand the evidence-gathering process from each subject. Final grades will only be decided in June and even then they are subject to change after examination board sampling. We will only know the final grades awarded on **Results Day - 12 August 2021**.

Tomorrow's evening will be a chance for teachers to explain how holistic judgements will be made about each pupil's performance in their subjects taken from a range of evidence relating to each qualification's course content. As each subject has very different specifications, the range and type of evidence gathered will differ considerably, so these explanations with specific guidance will be the focus of the evening. You will also be able to discuss what needs to be done to ensure that the final pieces of work that your son or daughter produces best reflect his or her abilities.

We understand how uncertain everything has been resulting from the pandemic and how this has impacted upon your son or daughter's Year 11 experience, not least how GCSE grades will be determined. However, I must request once again your understanding of the fact that all schools are working to a set of Department for Education determined criteria that must be rigorously followed.

With your continued support and encouragement, I am sure that our young people will fulfil their potential – please reinforce our messages with them – *"continue to work hard, act on feedback from the teachers, revise and then do the best you can in each of the assessments"*.

Yours faithfully



**M J DUMICAN**  
Headteacher