



15 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Year 11 update

As we draw to the end of term, I'd like to congratulate year 11 students for their conduct throughout the mock exam period, and in the face of the disruption over the past few weeks. I'd like to commend those students who have continued to sit mock exams at home whilst self-isolating, via online invigilation; they have approached these with maturity and diligence alongside their peers in school. It has been lovely to see some students back in school today as a result of the shortened length of the self-isolation period announced over the weekend. We also know that some students have opted to sit any outstanding mock exams in January rather than sit them from home and the timetable for these will be sent out before the end of this week to these students.

Year 11 consultation evening

The year 11 consultation evening, scheduled to take place on Thursday 21 January, will now take place on Thursday 28 January 2021. Further details regarding the arrangements for this, will be distributed after the Christmas break

Summer 2021 examination changes

As we look ahead to the rest of the academic year there are some **important updates** regarding public examinations. In addition to moving the dates of the exams back three weeks, the government has announced details of additional measures to support students sitting exams and assessments in England in 2021. These include more generous grades (to be in line with 2020 outcomes), advanced notice of some topics, permitted use of some exam aids (such as formula sheets), and adaptations to some assessments. Further details are expected to be announced in the new year and we will update parents/carers as soon as this is released. Full details can be read here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-support-the-summer-2021-exams/guidance-to-support-the-summer-2021-exams>

Alongside this, the government has announced an open consultation on these measures which parents/carers and students can respond to. The deadline to complete this is 20 December 2020. Further details can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/support-materials-and-advance-information-in-2021-qcse-as-and-a-level-exams>

As part of the government exam contingency plan, there will be additional exams scheduled after the main exams to allow students an opportunity to sit papers they missed in the first sitting due to Covid-19 related illness or isolation (certain criteria apply). These contingency exams are scheduled between **28 June and 16 July 2021**. Therefore, **all students taking examinations will need to remain available until the 16 July 2021**, should it become necessary for them to sit one of the contingency examinations. Parents/carers should be aware that the third week of the contingency window (12–16 July 2021) is the first week of the summer break; schools will remain open for the facilitation of examinations and we will provide further details to parents and carers as appropriate nearer the time.

The 2021 exams process continues to change and, as more details become available, we will continue to share these updates with you in a timely way.

We wish you a very peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Sadie Batstone
Principal

