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Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

8th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It was fantastic to see Year 11 students back today, they were a credit to you and the school in the way they conducted themselves. We spent the morning running the lateral flow tests which ran smoothly and without fuss, again credit to our wonderful students and the staff carrying out the testing. They were soon back into lessons and experiencing face-to-face teaching again.

I spoke to all the students this morning and talked to them about revision and forthcoming assessments. At the risk of repeating information from my previous letter I would like to let you know what I told them this morning.

- We are awaiting further guidance from the exam boards...
...and new test materials; these are expected at the end of the month.
- We want to give them every opportunity to demonstrate the grade they can achieve.
- We are going to use our autumn exam marks, the forthcoming spring exam marks and a further summer set of exams to arrive at grades.
- Any other work completed will form a part of the big picture of course, but the three separate exam series will be the basis of our evidence.
- Subjects with coursework elements will have this factored in.
- We will use a best-fit model to arrive at grades rather than the outcome of a single exam or limited evidence.

Holding three exam series (one already completed) will give us the maximum opportunity to award a fair grade. Delaying exams would mean that we could only conduct one further set of assessments between now and submission of grades in June. This would narrow the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding and give little room for manoeuvre in awarding grades.

We are doing our best for the students and understand that any exams cause anxiety and stress by their very nature. We are ensuring that the exams are conducted in a fair manner, with all access arrangements in place and that everyone has a fair and equitable chance of achieving the grade they deserve. By using a best fit model, we will be able to see what students are able to achieve and how they have made progress using a combination of three assessment points. This will mean students are not disproportionately affected by a lower-than-expected result in one assessment.

We know our students and their abilities in our subjects, and we are confident that we will be able to arrive at fair grades by following this pathway. Please do encourage your child to talk to their teacher(s) if they are concerned about progress, the exams, revision, or their future plans.

Yours sincerely
Dr Wood, Deputy Headteacher

Executive Headteacher
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