8th January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

**Update on GCSE and A-Level Examinations 2021**

This week in Parliament, the Education Secretary outlined the following arrangements for all schools in England:

“*I can confirm that GCSEs and A and AS Level exams will not go ahead this summer. This year we are going to put our trust in teachers rather than algorithms.*

*The department and Ofqual had already worked up a range of contingency options. While the details will need to be fine-tuned in consultation with Ofqual, the exam boards and teaching representatives, I can confirm now that I wish to use a form of teacher-assessed grades, with training and support provided to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently.”*

After this announcement on Wednesday, and the confirmation that qualifications will now move to ‘teacher-assessed grades’, there will now be a formal consultation beginning on Monday 18th January. This will be conducted by The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation which regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England – Ofqual.

The current advice from Ofqual is outlined below, and is advice that we fully support:

*“We know that this is a difficult time for students, their parents and carers, teachers and trainers. Our message to students is this: please continue to engage as fully as you can in your education. That will be online for the majority of students, or face-to-face for those students still going in to their school, college or training provider. This will put you in the best position, whatever arrangements are made for your qualifications. It’s important that teachers and students can focus on the knowledge and skills needed to equip students to progress to the next stage, whatever form that might take – whether to college, an apprenticeship, university or employment.”*

Once we receive further guidance, advice and details we will of course write to you with full information.

In the Year 11 Assembly, held this week, I outlined the key information that we have at this time and reassured the students that they will be fully supported and kept informed.

For now, I encourage the students to fully engage with every aspect of their remote learning, their class teachers will be proceeding with a full curriculum and content delivery, they will be checking for understanding throughout the lesson and will continue to equip the students with the knowledge and skills they require to progress to the next stage of their academic studies.

As a school, we will do all that we can to support the students through this time of uncertainty and I hope this letter goes someway to offer both clarity and reassurance*.*

Yours Sincerely



Mrs H Pardoe

Associate Assistant Headteacher- Year 11 Leader