
Rob Pavey, Headteacher

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Dear Parents and Carers of students in examination year groups

Summer exams

Boris Johnson's announcement on Monday that exams are cancelled is good news, and has been made with sufficient warning (I will confess that I had anticipated it in April). We don't yet know how the grades will be awarded, but it is going to be on the basis of teacher assessed grades, which are moderated externally in some way. We don't know the detail, but the grades are likely to take into account as full a range of evidence as possible, including:

- Mock results.
- Assessments and unit tests.
- Classwork.
- Homework.
- Grades recorded by teachers.
- Potentially some form of coursework assignment (although I hope this idea will recede).

The final grade will not rely on any one thing and is not necessarily the same as the mock grade. What students (and parents) can do now is:

- Don't panic.
- Join all lessons online.
- Do all work set to the best possible standard.
- Keep copies of work, especially marked work.
- Attend the extra sessions or interventions that have been laid on.
- Know that all work contributes to a better grade, without the uncertainty of what may be on the exam.

We will continue teaching the normal curriculum, firstly because it will provide the best possible foundation for next year, and secondly because teachers will be looking for evidence to award good grades. Now is therefore the best possible time to engage fully in lessons. Despite this, I know that there will be a small handful of students who won't listen to this message: we cannot

give good grades without good evidence. This year more than ever before, poor engagement will lead directly to poor outcomes.

Mocks

We will do mocks for Year 13, Year 11 (short mocks) and Year 10 (catch-up RE mocks) on return to school if it is sensible and possible. This depends on a range of things which are unknowable at this stage, including the course of the pandemic, the guidance on awarding grades from the DfE and the effectiveness of the next six weeks' teaching. Students should not worry about it, but should just carry on with their normal learning. We will give as much warning and information as we can in advance, and we will only do the mocks if it is in students' interest to do so. I'm afraid I cannot give any more clarity than that at the minute.

Kind regards

Rob Pavey
Headteacher