

7 January 2021



Dear Year 11 and Year 13

### **Exam cancellation**

As you will be aware, on Monday 4 January 2021, the Prime Minister announced the cancellation of this summer's examinations because of the impact of Covid-19 on students' ability to prepare in full for these examinations. I understand that this decision, whilst providing some certainty, will also have caused a lot of anxiety.

Yesterday, Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education, announced that teacher assessments would be used to determine GCSE and A level grades this summer. Full details of this have not yet been shared but at least we are able to begin to formulate plans for consistency of approach to ensure every Year 11 and Year 13 student has the opportunity to demonstrate the very best of their ability over the coming months so that you are not disadvantaged by the cancellation of the exams.

I was concerned to hear a student being interviewed on the news yesterday suggesting that this meant all of his GCSE preparation had been wasted. This is absolutely not the case: the cancellation of exams does not mean the cancellation of qualifications. The differences will be that the method of assessment may be different and that you will be assessed by teachers rather than by an exam board. There will still be formal assessments so I cannot stress enough that this is **not** the time to stop working! You are still working towards a qualification this summer and towards an education that will stay with you for life. What you do over the next few weeks and months **will** make a difference. The work that you are doing at home now is important in ensuring your teacher assessed grades are as good as they possibly can be.

I promise to keep you updated as we get more information. For now, please know that we will do everything that we can to ensure that you are awarded grades that are fair and that reflect the work that you are putting in. But you need to do your bit, too! Keep working hard. Keep working with your subject teachers in your on-line lessons to show us just what you're capable of. In short, keep going. Do not give up. There's still lots of time to make a difference and lots of support available to help you do so.

We'll keep you updated as we find out more.

With best wishes



**Ms A Newton**  
**Principal**