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Headteacher: Mrs Julia Hinchliffe MA (Hons), MA, NPQH

6 January 2021

Dear Year 11 students (and Year 11 parents)

Year 11 Exams

As you know the Prime Minister announced this week that GCSE exams will not be taking place this summer in the normal way. This afternoon we heard that Centre Assessed Grades will be used instead. Grades will be awarded by us (not based on an algorithm) and moderated for fairness and accuracy. Your teachers will consider objective evidence from classwork, homework, coursework, tests and your potential trajectory as we all know how much improvement can be made in the run up to the summer of Year 11.

I know this will be very disappointing to you, as we had been told that exams would happen this year, and everyone has worked hard to ensure students would be ready for exams in the summer. What I want you to think about, though, is what this means for your child/you now. I hope this will provide some reassurance:

1. Your hard work will be recognised

None of the effort you have shown so far is wasted. Every piece of work you complete now and over the next few months will make a difference.

2. Your final results are real results

In the long run, it won't matter that your grades came via this system. You will still be able to progress to sixth form, college and university in the future. The value of your GCSEs, and other certificates such as BTEC, OCR, VCERT - are not being altered, just the way they are being administered is changing.

3. None of your ambition for the future will be affected by this decision

You need to keep working on all your subjects now, and keep in mind your post-16 education/training plans. Some of you will still be aiming to take your vocational exam on Monday as planned, and we support this.

Your teachers are aware and can guide and support you well through the remainder of this year. Mr Grafton will be in touch with further updates as we hear them. For now, keep turning up to your online lessons, keep working hard, and remember that every piece of work you complete from now onwards will make a difference.

Yours sincerely

Julia Hinchliffe, Headteacher

