

10 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and students of Years 11 and 13

It has been wonderful to welcome back all students this week but especially Years 11 and 13 when I am sure there was a time when they thought they might never return and complete their final year of Key Stage 4 and 5, respectively.

Thankfully, this is not the case and Monday's return was a great success with asymptomatic testing going particularly well too.

Of course, our attention now turns to ensuring that we have all the necessary information in place to accurately and fairly award grades this summer. To that end all Subject Leaders are currently producing a rationale for awarding grades within their subject area that meets the Assessment and Evidence guidance provided by Ofqual below:

- *Teachers must assess their students' performance, only on what content has been delivered to them by their teachers, to determine the grade each student should receive.*
- *Teachers can use evidence of a student's performance from throughout the course to inform their judgement.*
- *Teachers should determine the grades as late in the academic year as is practicable, and not confined to a defined window, to enable teaching to continue for as long as possible.*
- *Schools and colleges should use a broad range of evidence across the taught content to determine the grades before submitting the grades to the exam boards.*
- *Heads of centres will have to confirm that students have been taught sufficient content to allow progression to the next stage of their education, although we will not set requirements about the minimum amount of content that students must have been taught.*
- *Students should continue to work on their non-exam assessment (NEA), including for Project qualifications. NEA will be marked by teachers and will contribute to the overall grade, whether or not it has been completed, but we will not require exam boards to moderate it.*
- *In GCSE, AS and A level art and design, the student's grade must be based on the portfolio only, whether or not it has been completed.*
- *In GCSE English language, GCSE modern foreign languages and A level sciences (biology, chemistry, physics and geology), centres should determine and submit a separate grade or result for the endorsement. This result or grade should be based on work that has been completed towards the endorsement.*

We have already determined that we will use previously identified Professional Predicted Grades (PPGs) that are shared with you as part of the reporting system, over the course of the last 2 academic years of study as one form of evidence, and where Pre-Public Exams (PPEs) were taken this will also be an influencing piece of evidence.

Each department/subject and its staff will also use a range of other evidence from classwork, homework, in class assessments and Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) to formulate a final grade.

Finally, we will be holding an assessment fortnight for all students in Years 11 and 13 from Monday 26th April 2021. These assessments will be taken in classrooms, there will be no hall-based exams. **The assessments will be one of the final pieces of evidence** to influence the awarded grade and will be used to measure more recent knowledge, understanding and skill acquisition.

These assessments will be critical in influencing final awarded grades and students will need to work hard between now and then to be able to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in these assessments. Students who potentially underachieve in these assessments will not be unfairly graded overall. However, students do have this opportunity to significantly influence their final grade and demonstrate where they are with their learning currently where previous assessments might not have reflected their truest ability at that time.

I do appreciate that there is a lot to take in, still plenty to do and lots of learning to take place but please rest assured that we will be with the students all the way through this working to ensure that every student is given every opportunity to maximise their final awarded grade.

If you have any queries please do contact Mr Trickett, Mrs Morris or myself, and we will do all we can to help.

Yours sincerely



Mr J Hodgson

Principal

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