



22 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Year 11 - Cancellation of Summer Examinations and Plans for Assessment**

I hope that you and your family are well, and continue to remain healthy during such times of uncertainty. As you are aware, work continues to be made available for students, on Teams, and follows their normal timetable. The Department for Education expects that every secondary-aged student has a minimum of 5 hours' work each day, to mirror what they would ordinarily be expected to do in school.

We recognise that, during lockdown, students may also be doing less reading than they ordinarily would in school. To support increased literacy, every student also has literacy-based tasks to complete each morning, which should take no longer than 10 minutes. These are crucial in ensuring your child keeps using literacy to support their learning.

Regarding GCSEs, the government have cancelled formal exams this summer. This means that students will not sit external exams as they ordinarily would, but will be tested through other means instead. Schools are waiting to hear more details on this but the overview is:

- Teachers will provide replacement grades
- Evidence will be needed for these grades through coursework, essays and tests done in school
- Some external tests will be provided by exam boards and these will be marked in school
- Results day will be July
- Vocational exams will use teachers' grades

Due to the changes that have been proposed, it is critical that the Academy is able to build a bank of evidence for your child. This means that the work they are set, on Teams, is incredibly important and their answers may go towards their final grade.

To support this, the Academy will be setting a series of ongoing short assessments when Y11s return to school so that we can give every child the grade they deserve. These assessments will be organised by departments and will test students on what they are currently learning in the curriculum.

Staff have already made phone calls to each Y11 student to tell them of the importance of this information. Please could you also reiterate, to your child, the increased importance of working hard throughout this period. If your child is struggling with the work, they can contact their teacher through Teams and someone will give them a call to support.

I will be in contact with more details as they are given to us, via the government. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support and patience.

Yours faithfully

Ms C Barber  
Head of Academies