

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for all you are doing to support your child through this very important year at school. We have been so impressed with their engagement in remote learning during this period of lockdown. There is a very clear sense from the students that they want an opportunity to demonstrate how good they are and the progress they have made these last two years despite the exceptionally demanding circumstances. Although we do not yet know exactly how grades will be determined this year, we do know that, unlike last year, this opportunity to improve the final assessed grade will continue until at least Term 5. Therefore, we cannot stress enough the importance of the work that they are doing now and for the next 4 to 5 months. It is important to make sure that they do not fall behind and that they are recapping on work that has been previously studied. We understand that remote learning is not easy and would urge you to contact us should you, or your child, require additional support.

As you will no doubt be aware, we are currently undergoing a period of consultation regarding how students will be assessed this year. Although we do not yet know the specifics, it has been widely reported that there will be an element of teacher assessment. This will not just be teachers awarding grades. This will be based on evidence that will be moderated, and quality assured by an independent body. There may well be some form of external, standardised assessment also included.

The government consultation regarding the awarding of grades can be completed by anyone. Should you wish your views to be included please use the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

Once the consultation has closed and the new guidance is released, we will contact you as soon as possible to make sure that you are informed of how the process will work and what this will look like for your children. We hope to receive the guidance towards the end of February.

We will write to you again, when we have further news about reopening but in the meantime, please continue to encourage your children to continue attending all of their remote lessons.

Thank you for all you are doing. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely



Matt Lillie
Head of School



Stephen Carey
Executive Headteacher