

7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Year 11 Students

Cancellation of GCSE exams and Teacher Assessed Grades

As you will be aware from the news and recent government announcements, GCSE exams have been cancelled this year and schools will be asked to submit Teacher Assessed Grades. Whilst we do not know the finer details of how the process will be carried out on a national level, what we do know is that: -

1. ***Schools will need to be able to provide evidence from continual assessments*** in order to verify and justify the grades that we will be asked to submit. Each department is currently working on a plan of how best to collect and collate this evidence. Departments and subject teachers will inform students how they will go about this once their plans have been finalised. The aim is that each child will have an assessment portfolio for every subject that they study. Throughout lockdown, the majority of these assessments will take place online.
2. ***It is even more important now that your child log on to Google Classroom, submits all assignments and participates in their live lessons.*** This is to ensure that they are best prepared for the next stage of their education, irrespective of what courses they wish to study at a higher level. Their knowledge and skills in all the subjects that they study should be of a foundation as solid as it would have been, had they been attending school for face to face lessons, uninterrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Only continuous engagement with their virtual lessons will ensure that this is achieved.

Whilst I know and understand that the news of school closures and the cancellation of GCSE exams are both stressful and disappointing for all of you, please rest assured that we will endeavour to continue supporting your child and work collaboratively with you in order to ensure that their education still continues to a high standard.

By continuing to work together, with students attending and participating in their online learning and assessments, we will be able to award them the grades that they truly deserve.



I have asked Mr Martin to follow up this letter with a video explaining the expectation, which will be uploaded onto the year group assembly on Google Classroom. Mr Martin will also be holding a weekly virtual assembly every Monday at 3.10pm in order to provide regular updates and answer any questions that students' parents may have. Please ensure that students attend regularly.

In the meantime, please stay safe, stay well.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Barzey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Arthur Barzey
Headteacher

