

Our ref: PJS/DKP

16 November 2020

Dear Year 11 Parent/Carer

I have sent out a video assembly today to Year 11 just sharing my thoughts on where we may go with exams in the summer. Nothing is certain however two possibilities seem to be emerging. The first option is some interim exams set by the government in about March that may act as 'mocks' if the exams go ahead, but may also count if they don't. The second idea being floated at governmental level is that students may take exams in English, maths and science but have centre assessed grades in the other subjects (possibly moderated by their performance in their core subjects). The political imperative is to have the full set of exams, which have now been put back by three weeks. As a school we are planning for all three possibilities, the key is for students to prove as much as they can through lessons, assessments and tests so we have a strong portfolio of evidence if needed.

Students are doing initial exams this month which will be the first chance we have to really capture where they are. These exams will provide us with useful data to then identify successes and concerns and therefore adapt our strategy to meet the identified needs. These first mocks allow the students the chance to test what they know and also to assess how effective their revision has been. In the event of the school having to submit centre assessed grades these results will form only part of our judgement, so if students don't achieve as well as they hoped, please don't let them catastrophize over this.

This week students will complete a grade accumulation sheet, which will help them to identify the markers on their journey to their desired grades.

We are keen to promote a positive attitude amongst our students, which means being aware of stresses around exams without pandering to them and inadvertently exacerbating them. We have an organization called the Bravest Path who will be coming in to do some work around emotional intelligence with Year 11 next Monday and Tuesday. The work is around helping students let go of what others might think of them and aims to equip them with some tools and the confidence to not feel pressured to edit themselves to what society expects of them. In this age of social media I believe it could be really useful work for students and the organization come highly recommended.

Year 11 are a great bunch and working really hard in lessons, we are very proud of them and look forward to them gaining the results they deserve. This final haul is very much a partnership between home and school, but I am confident that, in working together, we can deliver some very strong results in August.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Jenkins
Headteacher