



11th February 2021

Dear Student,

Examination Year Groups: Year 11 and Year 13

Firstly, I hope that you are well and I recognise that this will be the third letter that I will have sent regarding this topic since the Christmas break. I have continued to write to you and your parents to try to give you the most accurate and up to date picture of the assessment and grading process because we feel that it is important that you know what is happening and I want you to know that we are monitoring the situation carefully.

What do we know?

The Ofqual consultation has closed. This consultation attracted over 103,000 responses, many from students across the country. This is positive news because it shows that many students gave their views on the proposals and this will help Ofqual to form a response that reflects the student view.

The Interim Chief Regulator shared an update on the consultation on Friday 29th January. This update is available [here. I have extracted what appear to be the key statements from this post.](#)

- *Teachers will need to take decisions about grades based on a **breadth of evidence***
- ***Externally-set papers could be provided by exam boards** to give a consistent means of assessment between different students, and schools in different parts of the country*
- *Exam boards could use questions in these papers that are **similar in style and format** to those in normal exam papers because most students would be familiar with the sorts of questions*
- Some students have expressed that the proposals are, “exams by the back door”. They are not. But an externally-set task would help teachers by providing them with a **reference point**, giving them greater confidence in the grade they were awarding

What should I do next?

Until the results of the consultation have been published, this is as much as we know. In the meantime, you should continue to work hard because your results are still all to play for. These results will be based on the standard at which you are performing when you are assessed, and these final decisions will not be made until the summer term.

I am sorry that you have to work from home at a time when you are missing your friends, normal life and routines. I am sure that those factors will weigh heavily and add significant anxiety for many of you. It isn't fair that you are having to go through these challenges but sometimes the only way out is to battle on and all that can be done is to step one foot in front of the other and keep on doing the right things. We will, and are trying to support you. That is why I recommend that you make sure that you balance your work with rest over half term and do things that make you happy.

If there is anything that we can do to help or if you would like a conversation with your college leader or tutor then please get in touch. We are on your side and we hope that we will soon have a roadmap out of this lockdown and back to school.

Yours faithfully,

Darren Turner (Executive Principal)