



Friday, 09 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The progress, outcomes and future destinations of our year 11 pupils, are very important to us. As we have not had any further official updates from Ofqual (the exams regulator) we will continue to prepare pupils for the final GCSE exams to be held in the summer term 2021. The first stage of this preparation will be a round of Mock Exams in the weeks beginning **Monday 9th November**.

Pupils will sit an exam in each of their subject areas. Each exam will cover the breadth of the curriculum completed **so far** which will give an accurate indication of their current GCSE performance, and support teachers in making accurate predictions of final GCSE outcomes. Most importantly, this will help pupils by experiencing real exam scenarios as well as gaining practice in exam preparation.

In light of last year's GCSEs being based on Centre Assessed Grades, mock exams have never been so important. These grades and their subsequent predictions could be used if exams are no longer able to go ahead.

There will be a series of assemblies and guidance on how to prepare well for the exams. For any pupils self isolating these will be shared on Class Charts. Pupils have already been issued with a revision guide for each of their subjects. Where appropriate, lessons and homework activities are utilising these to support independent study skills and subject areas will continue to share strategies for how pupils can revise effectively.

As a priority for school catch-up we will begin by offering year 11 pupils additional study time in most of their subjects after school and this will start on **Monday 12th October**. Pupils will be issued with a new timetable where a Period 6 lesson will be added on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday when their school day will finish at 3:50pm.

We expect all pupils to make the most of this opportunity for each of their subjects and ask for parental support in sharing the benefits of this additional contact time for their education. The aim will be to focus on retention and retrieval of the course content to best prepare pupils for their exam success. This will support, but not replace, pupils own independent homework and revision. A guidance booklet has been issued to pupils, to be shared with parents, with support strategies which can be used in the run up to these exams and towards their final assessments.

Best regards,

Mr Redford
Headteacher