

24<sup>th</sup> March 2020



Principal **Nick Martin**  
BSc, MA, PGCE, NPQH

Dear Parents and Students of Year 11

As you are aware, last week the Education Secretary Gavin Williamson announced that there will not be any exams taking place in May and June this year. I am conscious that this has never happened before and that this is an unsettling time for you all. The following information has been issued by the government [www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced)

**A summary of the information provided is as follows:**

- The Government's priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including starting college or sixth form courses or an apprenticeship in the autumn. This means ensuring that students achieve a grade that fairly reflects their work and effort over the last few years.
- Ofqual (the governing body who regulates examinations and assessments) will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade for each student that reflects their performance as fairly as possible. Ofqual are working with the exam boards to ensure this is applied consistently across the country, so your child is not disadvantaged in any way.
- The exam boards will be asking class teachers to submit their judgement about the grade to be awarded. Teachers will consider a range of evidence and data collected over the past eighteen months, including performance in assessments, mock exams and non-exam assessment. **Please be assured that we have all the evidence that we require in order to supply the exam boards with a grade.** Clear guidance to ensure the process is fair and robust will be provided to schools in due course.
- The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment data (SATs results), and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student. Teachers will not be solely responsible for the grade your child receives. The Ofqual aim is to provide these calculated grades to students before the end of July.
- The government has stated that if a student does not feel that the calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

With this in mind, you may wish to continue working on your studies and this week you will see teachers uploading exam style questions and past papers, along with the mark schemes, onto SMHW. There is also a wide range of online resources available including Seneca, BBC Bitesize and our own GCSE Learning platform on the google drive. In addition, Mr Huckle, Head of 6<sup>th</sup> form, will be in touch shortly to share a list of short online courses that would be beneficial for students entering our Sixth Form or progressing to college. The Year 11 team are available via email at any point if you have any questions so please do reach out and we will help as best we can.

Yours sincerely

Miss C Tabert  
Head of Year 11

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