

Dear Parents / Carers of Year 11

Many of you will have heard the news about **changes to the assessment system** for this year. Much is very sensible, but the obvious issue regarding fairness between pupils who have missed large periods of time of school (particularly in other parts of the country) and those who have not, remains. I have summarised the main changes below, but am still looking at the full implications of these.

As we know, we have not had to impose any significant closure at this point at RHSC. I think we should regard that as us being in a strong position in terms of the amount of in-school learning your children have been able to take advantage of, which **I hope they find reassuring and motivating**. It is fair to say many pupils are working really hard and preparing really well, whilst some still need to improve their work rate, especially at home.

Once we get into January we will take stock of all pupils' progress, and form our **plans of support for them**. As well as our usual support measures, this might include some additional small group teaching out of school hours. We will keep you informed.

Be aware that in the new year it is our intention to run a **remote Parents' Evening, on Teams**. Do not worry about this - all instructions will be sent nearer the time, and your children will be completely prepared to support you in this if required. Additionally, due to the lag time involved with creating **Full Reports** and the expected fluidity of the lead up to the summer exams, we intend to **replace them with a more instant method** for feeding information about your child's progress back to you. This might be an additional Parents' Evening or possibly an Interim report

I will send out more information when things are a little clearer. In the meantime, please talk to your children about this (they are bound to ask), and emphasise that:

- **The Mock examinations are going to be even more important than usual - it is essential that pupils prepare themselves as thoroughly as possible.**
- We won't know much of the finer details until late January.
- Things may change further.

In summary, The DfE have outlined that they recognise the challenges faced by students this year and have announced a series of measures which will include:

- **more generous grading than usual**, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged;
- students receiving **advance notice** of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision;
- **exam aids** - like formula sheets - provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise;
- additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation;
- a new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

Reepham College applications

Please be reminded that the deadline for applications is 9th December. If you feel your child needs further advice and guidance please let me know.

I will be in touch again once we have more information for you.

Yours sincerely
Tim Gibbs

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