

Dear Parents / Carers

You will have seen the government have said there will not be any GCSE exams, and that we will award Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) again this year. I have already emailed all Year11 pupil about this, but feel you should also know what is going on.

Can I start by saying feedback from teachers is that Year11 have really made an excellent start to this spell of online learning. We have worked hard to improve the quality of what we deliver; last closure was not anticipated and at no point were we really able to plan as a whole staff, but hopefully you and your children will find it is now a far more interactive, engaging and worthwhile experience. Attendance to online lessons has been really high, although disappointingly a small number of pupils have not yet engaged. Please can you monitor this, as they should be logging in to live lessons as per their timetable if they were at school itself.

### **Centre Assessed Grades**

At the moment we do not know exactly how this will work. But, I am confident this will not simply mirror what happened last year, due to it being earlier in the year the decision has been made, and because we still expect to have pupils back at school for most of the remainder of the year, hopefully from next half term. The clear message to your children, that I outlined to them last night, should be that they have to keep working hard.

- I anticipate that this year we will have to evidence the grades we award.
- We will be given an end of term date for them which I anticipate will be quite late on in the summer, considering they have already missed so much face-face learning time.
- All work between now and then, as well as all that has been done previously, will form part of the evidence base we will use in deciding their CAGs.
- We intend to conduct a series of appropriate assessments, probably including internal formal exams similar to Mock exams, at a point to be decided.

The crucial message is that they need to keep working really hard, and that they should regard all work they now produce as potential evidence for CAGS.

As things become clearer and we know more, we'll let you know.

Yours sincerely

Tim Gibbs

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