

Thursday 7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will have heard the announcement from Gavin Williamson that GCSE exams have been cancelled in their normal format this summer. I know this will be a huge disappointment for many.

The Education Secretary has not yet set out a detailed plan for how grades will be awarded this summer but has stated that the system will involve centre assessed grades. Ofqual, the exam's regulator, is working with teachers and exam boards to develop a process that will ensure all students receive fair and consistent grades. Initial information from exam boards suggests that there will be some form of assessment to support teachers in deciding teacher assessed grades.

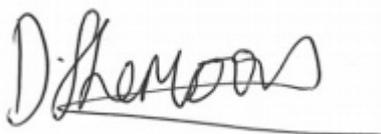
Whatever the mechanism for awarding GCSE grades, the message to our students is clear and simple: continue to work hard and do your very best in every lesson and in every piece of work. It is very important that students consistently demonstrate high quality work to ensure teachers have the evidence to award a grade that reflects their performance.

With the move to remote learning the reliance on IT becomes even more important. Should technology be a barrier to your daughter learning, please contact your daughter's Head of Year to discuss this further. If your child is having difficulties with their chromebook they should contact **[chromebooks@schoolsict.support](mailto:chromebooks@schoolsict.support)**. Our IT technicians will be happy to help with any support required with school supplied chromebooks as well as other technical issues.

We have scheduled GCSE mock exams in a fortnight beginning Monday 15th March 2021. While the date and exact format of these may change, we want to reassure students that there will be further opportunities to demonstrate their progress through formal assessments. We will ensure that students are fully supported in preparing for any assessments via remote live lessons and work on Google Classroom.

We appreciate that this will be a very unsettling time but can assure you that once we have guidelines to follow, we will share our strategy with you so that you can understand how your daughter will be awarded her final grade. We will also hold a remote parent's evening for you to discuss your daughter's progress with her teachers, and ask any questions you may have. For now, students should continue to engage fully with their online lessons; the learning they do now will, above all, continue to prepare them for the next stage of their education.

With warm regards,



David Shemoon  
Assistant Headteacher

