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Deputy Head Academic
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Dear Parents,

I will endeavour to keep you updated on any further information that we receive from exam boards with regard to the process we will have to follow for the calculated results of GCSE and A levels grades to be published. An email to all students in examination years went to them last week from Mr J. Nicholson, our Examinations Officer, just to reassure them that we had limited information at that point but would update them as and when we can. I have now followed with a further email to all students and share the content of that email with you below, so parents have the same information.   Would you please ask your son/daughter to check their Ellesmere emails regularly, and clear out old emails if their inbox is full as that prevents us sending emails to them.

I appreciate this is an anxious and somewhat frustrating time for you all. Our Examinations Officer, Mr Nicholson, emailed you on Friday to share what information we had at that point and ask you to be patient and resist contacting individual teachers as they would not have any further information. Thank you for following that request. The Headmaster has asked me to update you on the current information and clarify how this affects your continued online learning.

As yet we have no idea about timescales for submitting grades to awarding bodies. It is possible that you may be given the opportunity to maximise the calculated grade we will be generating, prior to any moderation by the awarding bodies, and for this reason, we are asking you to continue your studies online. All work done up to when you would have gone on study leave will be factored into the data which is why completing the revision work given is strongly recommended. The announcement last week stated "teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data" which means we will be able to take account of any improvements you have made since the mocks and any previous work you completed above the standard of your performance in the mocks.

We do not know the timescale for this process but we are told the intention is to complete it by the end of July. Once you have received your grades, you will have the option of taking a GCSE or A Level examination, most likely to be in Michaelmas term, if you wish to improve on the grade awarded. This is an option that some of you may wish to take, and another very important reason why you should continue working online. This decision also applies to any courses following IGCSE. If you are studying IB the Headmaster will be writing to you shortly with further information on the current position.

Once we know the criteria, I can assure you that grades will be awarded in a fair and consistent manner. I would encourage you to remain as calm and committed as possible and keep to the routine that online learning provides. I understand that a small number of you may have limited internet access. If this is the case then please let your teachers know this and they can send you some work by email which doesn't include a lot of web links.

We are committed to helping you navigate this unprecedented situation. I would now request you wait for the school to contact you with updates as we are not in a position to reply to individual enquires with any new information.

I am sharing this information with your parents and asking them to check with you that you have read this email. A few students have allowed their inbox to be full, at which point no more emails can get through but with a prompt from parents you will remedy that. It is vital that you do clear old emails out so we can continue to communicate with you. It will be via your Ellesmere email that you will get your GCSE and A level grades.

Regards,

S.Y. Pratt-Roberto

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