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24th March 2021

Dear Parents,

I wrote to you earlier this month to outline the process for the awarding of grades following the government announcement that the full course examinations schedule will not take place. As you will be aware, the traditional examination has been replaced with a new method of awarding grades. We have received further information from the examination boards who will oversee the process and I am now in a position to share with you how this will be implemented through the Summer term.

To make up for the time not being able to attend school and having to work online both last year and this year the dates for finalising grades have been pushed back to the second half of June. This is to allow classes more teaching time and for teachers to have time to provide guided preparation to pupils for each summative assessment. The grade awarded will be based on a range of evidence across the whole course including coursework, non-exam assessment, and work completed under supervision in formal assessments that pupils will do in their timetabled lessons through April, May and June. Pupils will be prepared for each assessment and guided in what to focus on by their teacher. The teacher will assess the work in line with examination board standards and when all tasks are complete they will combine the data to generate a teacher assessed grade (TAG.) We will make use of support material provided by the examination bodies in setting the assessed tasks and the boards will conduct quality checks to ensure our assessments are in line with their marking schemes.

The schedule attached informs the pupils of the focus weeks through the term so the workload is evenly spread and can be effectively managed. The work will be done in lesson time with the preceding lessons preparing the pupils with guided revision work as prep, therefore there will not be any need for 'study leave' where pupils are out of lessons. Where a longer session is needed it is deliberately scheduled to run over normal lesson time and other subjects will not do critical work during that time as those subjects on the schedule are prioritised.

The majority of pupils who reside out of the U.K. will be returning for the Summer term in order to engage with this. For the few who cannot return we will be running these assessments online, with live supervision and, where appropriate, oral assessment may take the place of a written task. They will be briefed by the teacher on what to expect.

These new arrangements for assessment do provide valuable 'catch up' time to ensure pupils can hone those higher skills, in line with Ofqual guidance. An added benefit is that this approach provides a less stressful experience than the traditional examination schedule. However, it is the conclusion of two years' work and the Summer assessments are a key component in producing the TAGs so pupils will need to engage fully in the term if they are to achieve the best that they are capable of. Teachers will not give out the individual assessment results but guidance will be given on areas to improve on for the next assessment.

The process will undergo quality assurance checks by the examination bodies and, as is normal routine for exam years, we do not report a period 5 grade as work is summative and all contributing to the final externally validate exam grade, which is reported in August. A testimonial replaces the report at the end of term to give an overview of all that your daughter/son has achieved in that phase of their education.

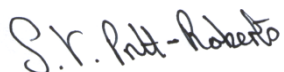
Those who have exam access arrangements such as extra time and other support measures will be provided for in the usual way. This will be discussed with each pupil who has an entitlement so they are fully briefed. Their teachers are aware which of their pupils have access arrangements in place and are liaising with support teachers in advance of the assessment.

The dates for those studying the IB Diploma to complete the teacher assessments is earlier than the other courses as the IBO have only extended the assessment period in line with when examinations usually occur, to 7th May. As we progress through the term pupils pursuing GCSE, A level and BTEC will complete their assessments at different dates, as determined by the subjects they have studied. From the 14th June we will provide Year 11 with introductory lessons to 6th form subjects and for our final year sixth formers we will agree individually what further university preparation work they might like to engage in and support them with relevant masterclasses.

Arrangements are, as always, subject to any change in covid regulations however I am cautiously optimistic that we will not have any further disruptions and can expect the summative assessments to be completed in the manner I have shared with you in this letter.

I remind you that the dates for the publication of results have been confirmed as follows: IB 6th July, BTEC 12th July, A level 10th August, GCSE 12th August.

Yours sincerely,



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