



January 8, 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I wanted to write to you in response to the statement made by the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson who confirmed, this week that both GCSE and A Level examinations scheduled for the summer term are now cancelled. Instead, students will now be awarded a final grade for each of their GCSE and A Level qualifications via teacher assessment.

I would like to re-assure you however that once we receive a more definitive understanding of what this actually means for staff, students and families, I will provide you with a further update as soon as I am able to.

Despite today's announcement, please remember that provision remains in place that enables students to complete their programme of study to the highest standards possible. Therefore, I would ask that you remind your child to remain connected and committed to their online provision and take every opportunity available to them to demonstrate their specialist knowledge and understanding through the completion of set assignments which could make a strong and lasting contribution to the internal assessment process that may form part of the teacher assessment process during the course of the academic year.

Our internal assessment processes, once clarified, will be fair, transparent and communicated regularly to students and families and will ensure that there is a very clear understanding of how grades will be awarded and more importantly, what types of assessments will be used to help inform the final grade that is awarded.

We will of course, work tirelessly to ensure that every student is afforded every opportunity through the remainder of their programs of study, to secure the very best grades possible and support the successful transition to next stage of their educational pathway or route into employment.

We do recognise, however, that students are worried and we will continue to provide the care, guidance and support that ensures students receive the high level of pastoral support at a time, which is undoubtedly one of the most anxious moments in their school career.

Due to the sensitivities surrounding this issue, I will be making contact with all students via a virtual meeting, to provide additional advice, guidance and support as well as clarify how the rest of the academic year will look and how we will work tirelessly to ensure that every student secures the success that their hard work and commitment so richly deserves.

Thank you as always for your continued support and please do stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Head of School