

6 January 2021

Dear Year 11 students and parents,

I write to you at what is an unsettled and complex time for Year 11 students. As you will no doubt be aware, the Government has announced today that Summer GCSE examinations will be cancelled and replaced with Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs). The good news is that they have announced that the algorithm, which caused so much stress and worry last year, will not be returning. In the interim, we have decided that our students will have the opportunity to sit the Sports Studies examination already scheduled for Monday. Those who are due to take this will have already received this information.

Having worked hard, I know that most students were eager to show what they could do in their examinations and may feel some disappointment.

At this stage, we do not know the criteria with which we will be asked to give grades. It may be that we are asked to evidence your work over the forthcoming months, and so I would ask that you approach your current studies with the same rigour and attitude that you have shown when we were in school. Your teachers will continue to set work which challenges and pushes you to think and learn. We continue to hope that we will be able to welcome you back onto site after the February half term and feel confident that with your continued effort you will earn the results you have worked so hard for.

I will write to inform you of information as we find it out.

It is important, however, to recognise education and knowledge as being about far more than simple tools to pass examinations. Being informed, able to access the world around you and play a role in the conversations that define our lives are all offshoots of this education. What we know defines our character and aids our decision making processes. It can also be a source of continual joy and fascination. You must cherish all that you know, recognise all that you don't, and commit to a lifetime of learning in all of its many forms.

Please know that myself and all your teachers continue to be here for you. We are only a call or an email away. Should any families wish to speak with me, slots are available for Parents' Evening, which will continue as scheduled tomorrow evening.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A. McKenzie
Principal