



March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of students in Years 11 and 13

I hope this letter finds you well.

On Friday, OFQAL, the agency in charge of regulating all academic qualifications, updated us on proposals for managing Year 11 and Year 13 qualifications this year. This followed the Government announcement on Wednesday that the Summer examinations will be cancelled.

I imagine you will have many questions and until we have further details, I can really only give you some headlines. It is evident that our professional forecast grades will form an essential part of the qualifications process. It is also apparent that OFQAL will be developing a system to check those grades and may amend them based on data they hold. It has been stated that students who are dissatisfied with their forecast grades will have an opportunity to sit an examination in the Autumn in order to improve on these if needed.

Fortunately, we have really good data about the progress students in Years 11 and 13 have been making and are therefore in a good position to make an accurate forecast when we are asked to do so. I cannot share any further information at this stage as we remain unclear what we will be asked for or when the data will be requested, however I do want to reassure you of the following:

- Our forecast grades will be fair and will represent what we believe students were likely to achieve in their Summer examinations based on their progress to date and the progress they would have made between now and the exams. We will be assuming that our students had full access to all of the revision support during this time and were continuing with the tremendous hard work we have seen in lessons.
- I will continue to share information with you regularly about the process that will be followed for students to get their qualifications.

In light of the latest information, we are considering carefully how best to support our Year 11 and Year 13 students for the remainder of the year. I hope you will understand we need to take a little time to think about the options. We will not leave our students without a learning programme but we want to be sure this is relevant, worthwhile and something we can manage within the staffing capacity we now have available. This means we need to understand a little more about anything they can or should do towards this year's qualifications and then what further learning opportunities would be of most benefit and can be effectively managed through distanced learning. I intend to be in a position to update you by the end of this week, thank you for your patience in the interim.

Yours sincerely,

*Emma Leaman*

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