

Dear Year 11,

As you will no doubt be aware, we are now in a 'National Lockdown' and therefore we cannot welcome you back to school in person on Monday 11 January to undertake the trial exams, as we had planned for you. I know how much work many of you have put in to preparing for this set of trial exams – your collective resilience and optimism has inspired me daily this academic year. From the news/social media, you may be under the impression that all exams have been cancelled. However, as it currently stands, this is not the case. Government guidance states that ministers *"do not think it is possible for all exams in the summer to go ahead as planned"*. This statement is ambiguous. It continues *"the government will accordingly be working with OFQUAL to consult rapidly to put in place alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly"*.

As you know from previous communication, the thing that allowed students to progress 'fairly' last year when exams were cancelled, was for every school to predict a Centre Assessed Grade (CAG) for every subject a pupil studied. As a school we had to use a range of data to generate Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) and followed a robust moderation process to produce the CAGs. The range of data we used to produce these CAGS included mock exam results, which is why, it is our intention run trial exams when you return after the lockdown, so please do not feel despondent or that all your efforts have gone to waste. As it stands, your GCSE courses are not finished, and content still needs to be delivered by your teachers. Therefore, from Thursday 7th January, your teachers will expect you all to fully engage in 'remote learning'. This remote learning will be a mix of live lessons and work for you to complete independently. You really must produce your best work during this period of lockdown, by engaging in live lessons and completing work set by your teachers to the absolute best of your abilities - as this work will help your teachers to predict final grades for you, if a CAG will be required. If your teacher sets you exam questions or mini exams etc...challenge yourself to try and get the highest grade you can! A final assessment or set of exams will still have to follow so that your teacher can judge the way you perform across the full course, and to confirm, it is our intention that these will be done when you return to school. We will provide you with information when we have it.

If you have any technical problems accessing 'remote learning' please get in touch with school, as we do not want there to be any barrier to you being able to engage with demonstrating your learning during this period of lockdown.

The Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson is due to make an announcement to the House of Commons tomorrow, so perhaps we will get a clearer view of what will be put in place in the summer term? As soon as we have a clearer picture, we will communicate this with you, and the implications of any decision.

So, for now – keep working hard! Keep communicating with your teachers and each other.

Your education, well-being and future remains our priority and we are here to support you.

Yours sincerely,

M Brothers

Mrs M Brothers

Deputy Headteacher