

8 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Student,

Y13 Tracking and Assessments

Please be aware we will not be sending our normal round of tracking to you later this month. We feel that making judgements based around remote work would potentially be unhelpful in the current climate. We wish the return to the classroom to be a fresh start: to take the opportunity to teach and to ensure that no student is disadvantaged by school closures or the decision to cancel summer examinations. We are confident that we will be able to do this, given the Department for Education's recent guidance.

Year 13 have the opportunity to demonstrate their progress and learning when they sit assessments during the next two weeks. These assessments are being sat in place of the postponed Year 13 mock exams that were due to be taken in February. While these assessments are significant, it is really important that students and parents know that they will form one part of the evidence that will be used to reach final decisions on grades for our students. All Year 13 students will continue with all their subjects until mid-May, when they will complete a final set of assessments to provide another piece of evidence about their progress right up to the end of their courses.

While there has been much uncertainty and anxiety around the situation regarding grading and assessment we believe that our response to the Department for Education's guidance means that we will have the widest possible range of evidence available. We are determined to ensure we conduct a process that is robust, rigorous and fair to all students so that students can be confident that the grades they finally receive are accurate and comparable to previous cohorts of students.

We know that students and parents will have many questions about the process for deciding grades. Many questions on style of assessment and revision can be answered by class teachers but, it is really important that teachers don't feel that they are being put under pressure with regard to grading. Any concerns regarding the processes for deciding grades should be directed to me.

We are delighted to see students back in school and being able to complete their studies with us. I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and understanding during such a turbulent and uncertain time.

Yours faithfully,



Mr T Backshall
Head of Sixth Form/Director of Learning Key Stage 5