

25 September 2020

Dear Year 11

Re: Attendance and next year's exams

Congratulations on the positive and productive attitude you have exhibited during this very different return to school. Aside from taking a little time in getting used to various essential routines and systems, you have virtually all demonstrated the resilience and focus towards your studies that we hoped to see, and we are excited about the progress we are expecting you to make this academic year.

Given the on-going and increasing media coverage around coronavirus, I want to share with you something we are having to keep in mind as we push forward this year. You will have noticed that we are taking great care when it comes to illness and of course do not want any students to compromise their health. There is plenty of information in the press designed to help you and your parents / carers check whether you have symptoms of coronavirus or another ailment such as a cold or flu. That said, your attendance in school remains very important, particularly as we do not know what the future holds in relation to lockdowns (local or national), the form of examinations next summer or whether teacher assessment and centre assessed grades will play any part in the awarding of final student grades. Learning from the past 6 months, staff have all planned and adapted their schemes and assessments to be secure that in the work we are all doing, we are supporting you towards achieving the best grades you are capable of.

Because we do not yet know what will happen in the future, we want to make sure that you give us as many opportunities as possible to be able to assess the work you are doing and map the progress you are making. Your teachers want to be able to use the work you are doing now, and going forward, to not only support you in filling in any knowledge gaps, but also to provide the evidence for them to make predictions and, if the government requires it, to give 'centre assessed grades'. Last summer, some students were under the misapprehension that because schools were able to give 'CAGs' that they would automatically get their target grade – this clearly cannot be the case. Grades have to be predicted based on the evidence you provide for us through the work you do. So whilst being in school has always been important, it is now the case that we need you in school and working hard more than ever.

I want to be celebrating your successes with you next summer, to see you gain the places on the courses you want, be it here or elsewhere. As a year group, you have returned with vigour and focus, and if you carry on in this way, attending regularly, working with your teachers and studying steadily at home, you should be confident of your outcomes next August.

You can do this Year 11 and we are here to help you on this journey.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J Lucas
Deputy Headteacher