

07 January 2021

Dear Year 11 Students, Parents and Carers

On Monday evening the Prime Minister announced that it is 'not fair for all exams to go ahead this summer' and 'alternative arrangements' were being put in place. You will have heard about the Education Secretary's clarification yesterday afternoon that no GCSE examinations will take place this summer.

He went on to say, "Given exams will not go ahead this summer, the department (for education), with Ofqual, has worked up a range of contingency options, and the details of the approach will be developed in consultation with the exam boards and the (education) sector. This will be based on teacher-assessment."

There is still no detail from the Government, Department for Education or Ofqual on how teacher assessment will operate this year and I will share this with you once I have more information.

I know this lack of information is frustrating for you. Given that this has been a clear possibility since last summer, it would not be unreasonable for you to have expected a contingency plan to have already been worked out and announced.

As I wrote on Tuesday, until the detail is announced, we will continue assessing all students in all year groups as best we can. I can assure all Year 11 students that the school's role in the process for awarding grades will be fair and based on their work completed until any identified deadline.

It is more important than ever that students continue to fully engage with their teachers and always produce their very best work so that we have clear evidence of each student's highest levels of achievement.

Year 11 mock examinations were due to take place at the end of January. These will now take place soon after we return to school, so this period of time away from school will be well spent in preparing for the mocks.

I will write again once we have information from the Education Secretary, Department for Education or Ofqual.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hemmings'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P' and a long, sweeping tail.

Mr P. Hemmings
Headteacher