

10<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Students

As we approach February half term, I thought it timely to provide you with another update. However, since my last quite lengthy letter sent to Year 11 students and parents on 26<sup>th</sup> January (still available on our website), I am sorry to say we have not received any further guidance from the Government or the Department for Education regarding how and when exam grades will be awarded or when Year 11 students will return to school.

### **February Half-Term:**

I know students have been working very hard on their on-line learning and I wanted to thank students for all their efforts during this period of remote learning. Year 11 is a challenging year at the best of times let alone under the current restrictions and students are to be congratulated for their efforts.

We value student wellbeing and understand the importance of balancing schoolwork with other activities. Throughout the remote learning period, students have received weekly emails encouraging them to look after their emotional health during this time. Therefore, during February half-term students will not be set additional work by their teachers, but should use this time as a chance to consolidate learning as directed by their teachers and catch up on coursework/Non-Exam Assessments. Mr Bland will be in touch with students before the end of the week to set a wellbeing challenge for half term offering a variety of ways students can relax and reduce screen time.

### **Returning to school:**

We await to hear if students will return to school on March 8<sup>th</sup> and if so whether that will be specific year groups or all students. Until that time, next half-term, we will continue to follow the remote timetable students have been following this half term.

### **Year 11 Reports**

As I said in my last letter, Year 11 Trial Exams, due to take place immediately after half-term, have been cancelled. However, in the Year 11 Report that parents will receive on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March, teachers will provide a new Currently Working at Grade and targets to help students to continue to improve in the remaining weeks prior to Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) being submitted.

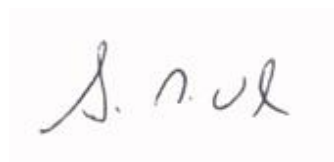
This report will be followed by Parent Consultation meetings using a video platform to allow teachers, parents and students to have detailed discussion about progress and targets moving forward.

## Conclusion

I hope, as we move towards the end of the Spring Term, Year 11 students will return to school on a full time basis as soon as possible. I know students and parents will be anxious about the uncertainty that still exists regarding exam grades. I would like to offer the same reassurance I offered in my last letter regarding CAGs - we did learn a great deal from the successful CAG process we went through last year and we have students' best interests at heart. Therefore, when CAGs are submitted they will represent a fair picture of each Individual student's progress.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



STEVE WILSON  
Headteacher