

10th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I would like to start by saying how well Year 13 students have coped with their studies despite all the disruption to their education that they have experienced. Their approach has been exceptional reflecting their resilience, maturity, and hard work. It has not been easy, and I thank them for all their efforts.

Thank you also to you as parents/carers who have played such an important part in supporting and guiding your children through such difficult times.

The following provides some further details about the arrangements for students as we move towards the end of Year 13.

Remainder of this Half-Term:

Students will continue to be taught throughout this half term and it is important they continue to work hard and complete all work to the best of their ability.

On Wednesday 26th May, students will have an extended tutorial where a compilation video will be played made up of contributions from staff and students. This will be in place of the usual Leavers' Assembly, which unfortunately we are unable to have due to COVID-19 restrictions. After this tutorial, we intend to serve Di Meo's ice cream to students in the school quad.

The Thursday tutorial (27th May) will be the last celebration tutorial with their tutors before leaving school at 3.05pm.

Year 13 students will therefore finish their studies on Thursday 27th May after this final tutorial session.

Teacher/Centre Assessed Grades:

I know students and parents/carers will understandably be anxious about the Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs) process. As I have tried to do in previous letters, I want to reassure students and parents/carers regarding this process. We learnt a great deal from the successful CAG process we went through last year and please be assured we will submit grades that are fair and based on all the information we have about students during their studies. We have students' best interests at heart and the CAGs will represent a fair picture of their progress.

The latest (and extremely late) guidance from the Joint Council for Qualifications has insisted all schools submit a Centre Policy for Teacher/Centre Assessed Grades. We had already written our CAG Procedure, and this has been ratified by Governors and makes up part of this policy. This policy is available on our website under the Parent Letters and Key Publications section should students or parents/carers wish to read it.

Also within this late guidance was the requirement for all departments to submit a Department Assessment Record highlighting the assessments that will lead to our CAGs. Our Department Assessment Records will continue to reflect our policy that exams were cancelled for a reason, and we will not be replicating our own examination season within school. Instead, our Department Assessment Records reflect the regular assessment work students have been doing with a greater weighting placed on assessments completed in Year 13 as this will reflect student progress throughout the course and will be based on the majority of content covered.

CAGs will be submitted to the exam boards by the deadline of Friday 18th June. A great deal of work will be conducted prior to this date to ensure a rigorous quality assurance process of our CAGs is conducted in line with our Centre Policy.

Initial details about Results Day and the advice and guidance available after grades are issued was given in tutorial last week. Further details will be provided by the Sixth Form Team in due course.

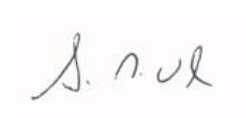
Conclusion:

I am sorry to say the Sixth Form experience for this cohort of students has been like no other and it is with great sadness many of the usual rites of passage Year 13 students normally experience have been denied to them.

I would like to thank students once again for their excellent approach during these challenging times. I am hopeful that, as we move through the government roadmap out of lockdown, the next stage in students' lives will be a little more normal.

I wish all our students the very best for the remainder of their time in school and beyond.

Yours faithfully



STEVE WILSON
Headteacher