

Wednesday 21st April 2021

Dear parent/ carer,

I hope that you enjoyed the opportunity over the Easter break to spend time with family and friends and enjoy some of the lifting of restrictions. It was good to see a significant number of students come into the Academy for revision sessions over the holidays. Year 11 have returned in a very positive manner and their attendance to date is impressive. I led the *Welcome Back* assembly for Year 11 on Monday. The focus was very much on resetting all our expectations for the next half term. As you and your child know, the next six weeks are really important in order that students are best prepared for their next steps. Excellent attendance and punctuality to both the Academy and to lessons is of utmost importance.

As I am sure you are aware, due to the cancellation of GCSE exams in 2021, schools are required to submit a grade for each student based on a range of evidence such as classwork, independent learning, controlled assessments and performance in tests and mock exams. Working with the guidance from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) we have produced a clear policy, timeline and guidance for teachers. The process of awarding grades to Year 11 is robust and informed by the evidence we have for each child.

We will arrive at these grades via a thorough and objective process with grades being quality assured by teachers, our special educational needs coordinator, curriculum leaders, pastoral staff and members of the leadership team. We are committed to ensuring that there will be no bias or discrimination shown towards any student and that we make a fair assessment of each and every student.

The grades we submit will be quality assured by the exam boards before they are released to students on the GCSE results day on 10th August. Due to the thorough nature of this process we are confident that every student at the academy will get the grades that they deserve although it will be possible for students to lodge an appeal if they believe a grade they are awarded does not reflect the standard they were working at. The final round of year 11 assessments will take place from 4th May to 21st May 2021. Although the final GCSE grades will be based on a range of pieces of evidence produced throughout the course, it is essential that students continue to prepare thoroughly for these assessments as they will form a key part of the evidence portfolio that we need to make available to the exam boards to support the grades that we submit.

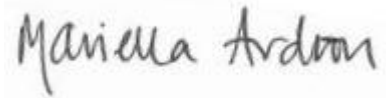
The timetable for these assessments is attached to this email. Many of the assessments will not cover the entire specification so it is important that students read the email sent by Dr Greene on 29th March which outlines what needs to be revised for each subject. Students will receive the results of the May assessments once they have been marked and moderated which is likely to be by the end of June. These results will be an indication of the final grade each student will be awarded. Please be aware the May assessments are part of a range of student work that teachers will use to inform the final grading, so the final grade awarded may be different to the grade achieved in the May assessments.

Year 11 will not be required for further Year 11 study after the 26th May. Mr. Daverat will be in contact over the next month to explain opportunities and remote provision for Year 11 after they have

completed their assessments. There will also be some exciting events to mark and celebrate the end of this stage of students' education!

May I take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and understanding at this time. Students have been so resilient and they have much to be proud of after this last year.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mariella Ardron". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light grey shadow effect behind the text.

Mariella Ardron
Principal