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Friday 26 February

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

We care about our students and are fully committed to supporting them upon return from a second school closure. In light of the latest guidance and in response to queries from students and parents, we are making some amendments to the assessments that were scheduled which we hope will be welcome news.

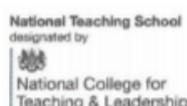
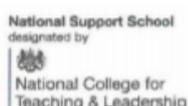
In light of the latest Ofqual guidance yesterday, we now know the following:

- There will be no externally set GCSE and A Level exams this summer (announced in January).
- The grades will be based on teachers' assessments of students current working standards.
- A range of evidence will inform our assessments; grades will never be based on a single result in a mock examination or class assessment.
- Students will not be assessed on new content that they have not previously covered.

The amendment to our original plans is as follows:

- **Monday 22 March** will be the beginning of the assessment window, giving students greater face-to-face teaching time upon return to school.
- Student assessment timetables will be finalised and shared by **Tuesday 2 March**.
- Remote learning throughout the week commencing **Monday 1 March** will focus upon preparations for the assessments, with a reduction in live teaching allowing increased revision and preparation time.
- Students on BTEC courses will continue with coursework; there will not be any assessment of BTEC subjects in this assessment window.
- Assessments will be a maximum of one hour unless students have access arrangements which include extra time. All students with access arrangements will have their full entitlement.
- Assessments will be classroom based under test conditions (in silence, without materials and mobile phones/wifi enabled devices).
- The assessments are formative, enabling us to identify and support students' immediate learning needs. It is absolutely our intention to ensure that every Year 11 and Year 13 student in our care has the opportunity to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do. We would only draw on this formative assessment data if we felt it was in a candidate's best interest. We cannot rule out the unknown potential of individual student circumstances which may prevent candidates from sitting further assessment opportunities. For this reason, we cannot rule out using these assessments as a piece of evidence, if it becomes the final one that a student may sit and therefore would be necessary to include.
- As we are awaiting a grading process from Ofqual, no grades will be given on these assessments - only the raw mark will be recorded.
- Using materials from the exam boards, further assessments will take place in an assessment window beginning in **Early May**; we will communicate a schedule with students as soon as we have more information from Ofqual about what these may look like. **The May assessments will be the final opportunity to collate data for teacher assessed grades** in order to fulfil the **June 18** return to examination boards.

To reiterate, both of these assessment weeks will not solely determine final grades; they will be used to further ensure that the grades we award are fair and accurate. We already have a range of other evidence that will contribute towards the final grades given to students. For example, classroom-based assessments, previous practice exam papers and NEA (coursework) pieces for Year 13.



Excellentia per fidem, per scientiam, per adiuvatum

The school will run an internal moderation and standardisation process within departments to ensure that the submitted grades are fair. Schools must submit all grades to the exam boards by **18 June**. As directed by the DfE, students and parents unfortunately cannot be told grades at this stage. The exam boards will choose a sample of schools and look at the evidence and procedures they have used to further ensure that grades have been awarded fairly.

Exam results will be published on:

- **Tuesday 10 August:** A Level results
- **Thursday 12 August:** GCSE results

There will be an appeals system for any student who believes that their grade has not been fairly awarded. The earlier results date provides time for Year 13 students to have any appeals dealt with before university places are finalised. There may be more detail that emerges from the DfE and Ofqual in the coming days; we will, of course, keep you as fully informed as we can with any developments.

We hope that this information is a reassurance for you all that the exam results this year will be a fair reflection of performance and ability. We are very much looking forward to the return of our students to school.

Yours sincerely

*D Ritchie*

Mrs Ritchie

Acting Head of School