



8 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

In light of yesterday's announcement from the Secretary of State for Education regarding the cancellation of examinations this summer, the school has received a number of enquiries from Year 13 students and parents regarding the implications of this.

In this announcement, the Secretary of State stated that schools would be provided with support and guidance over the coming weeks as to how grades could be awarded fairly and robustly for students. He undertook to work with stakeholders across the education sector in order to devise appropriate protocols and checks for this to take place, which will be published in the coming weeks, but no additional detail was given.

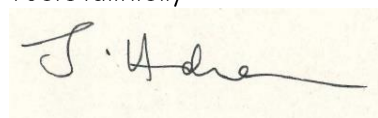
The implications of this for the school are that we will not be in a position to provide predicted grades to students/parents, as we would historically have done on reports. We have taken this decision as we are unaware of what evidence the Department for Education will instruct us to gather, how this is externally verified and how the awarding organisations will use this information to generate a grade which ensures fairness across centres. It would therefore be inappropriate to make a prediction at this stage, given this uncertainty, as it may not be reflective of what we are ultimately directed to do. Equally, the awarding of centre assessed grades last year also carried with it a requirement for schools not to divulge this information and to maintain confidentiality until the release of results in August. As such, staff have been instructed not to respond to requests for such information.

We are not alone in this position, with other schools also making similar decisions. Students in Year 13 who are holding offers through UCAS, employers or apprenticeships will also need to await further information from the Department for Education and their prospective providers. Mrs Pearson and Mrs Cuddy will continue to support Year 13 to fully engage with their studies.

We have also received enquiries about the Y13 December PPE results. It should be emphasised that these PPE results reflect student performance on one exam alone and should not be taken as predicted grades or given to employers or higher education providers as indicators of predicted performance. Merely, these are one piece of assessment evidence which are part of a bigger picture for students. Equally, we would anticipate that students will continue to make progress from this grade over the next six months, if they continue to engage with their learning remotely.

Understandably, the national lockdown and yesterday's announcements have generated questions and anxieties, but I hope the information above serves to clarify some of these questions with the information which we currently have. We will, of course, keep all parents and students informed as we receive further information or as further changes occur.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Hudson  
Deputy Principal

