

Year 11 Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening

Due to the current COVID-19 restrictions, we have introduced an easy-to-use online appointment booking system. Parents/carers will have accessed School Cloud to make their own appointment times with teachers. These appointments will take place virtually, via a video call.

Parents of our Year 11 students will be understandably anxious about their children's disrupted education and, specifically, the ways in which they will be assessed and finally awarded their GCSE grades. As you will be aware, we are currently awaiting guidance from the Secretary of State. We will not be able to allay some of these concerns, but it is important that we provide clarity and support, where we can.

Possible queries and responses:

- **When will students receive their predicted grades?**

We will provide predicted grades once government guidance has confirmed how students will be assessed.

- **How will the school assess students, if exams do not go ahead?**

We await government guidance about the means by which assessments will take place for our students this summer. The Chief Regulator of Ofqual (the organisation which regulates qualifications, examinations, and assessments in England) has stated:

"We are fully committed to doing all that we can, including making sure teachers are equipped and making use of awarding organisations' quality assurance processes, so that students' results are as fair as possible."

"We propose that the final determination of a student's grade should take place as late in the academic year as possible. We believe this will give students a greater sense of agency, which is critical to securing widespread acceptance of the outcomes."

- **What will happen if students did not achieve as well as they had hoped in their practice exams?**

Students should remain motivated and make the most of all learning opportunities to make progress over these remaining two terms. They should learn from the practice exams and respond to teacher feedback and advice, in order to make sustained progress.

- **Will the practice exam grade be the minimum expected final grade?**

The practice exam will not have been based on the entirety of the course and, as such, will be one aspect of the final assessment towards a final award. The government consultation document on final assessment has just been released and we should know more after half term.

- **How can students apply for Sixth Forms without a predicted grade?**

All schools are currently in the same position. Sixth Forms will be able to use practice exam data and school recommendation of suitability, in order to offer places. All Year 11 students will receive interviews to explore future pathways (please see notes below).

Next steps:

It is important that students maintain focus and enthusiasm for their studies, as there will be a range of evidence from which final grades might be applied.

Learning is important, whether it is for a final examination or for enhancing our understanding of the world in which we live.

All Year 11 students will receive, or have received, an interview to support future plans; this interview will be conducted by a member of SLT, Ms Barker (Head of Sixth Form) or Mrs Foster (Careers and Advice Co-ordinator).