

25 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to outline the structure of the coming weeks for our Year 11 pupils. Firstly, I would like to say how pleased we are that all pupils, not only Year 11, are back in school. While live lessons were innovative and enjoyable, face to face teaching is always preferable and the Year 11 pupils have generally settled back well with commitment and intent to do well. The main business of lessons now is for the pupils to work steadily, complete any classwork or assessments set to the very best of their ability and keep providing evidence of their understanding and skills to their teachers.

In the coming weeks there are clear markers that will support the teachers in awarding the grades of the Year 11 pupils. It is important to remember that the grades awarded are based on a holistic judgement of work completed over the course of KS4, not just on one assessment or mock examination result.

- Between the full re-opening of the school on the 8<sup>th</sup> March and the Easter holidays teachers have been determining gaps in Year 11 pupils' knowledge in order to adjust the curriculum and plan how to address any gaps
- After Easter the examination boards are releasing 'exam support material' that teachers may or may not use according to need
- From Easter, subject teachers will continue to teach subject content and continually assess pupils' progress in order to help ascertain final GCSE grades
- Inset days in May will be primarily used for interim moderation purposes and internal quality assurance processes
- Ofqual have stipulated that GCSE grades will be entered by Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June so continued teaching of the curriculum and ongoing internal assessment will take place until this time. The government have also made it clear that, because of the time lost during the last year, Year 11 pupils should stay in school as long as possible

In order to give our Year 11 pupils something that will help them make the move to their college courses, we are going to offer a week of sixth form college further study sessions in the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> June. Our aim is to offer a mixture of A Level/further education taster sessions, careers signposting advice and possibly some team building activities delivered by The British Army, dependent on availability. The aim is that Year 11 pupils will have a positive and engaging experience studying a range of topics from 'An Introduction to Criminology' to 'A Taster on Psychology' to 'Dissections in Science' and culminating in a Leavers' Assembly. A more detailed programme will be announced once we have confirmation of availability.

I will write to parents again when we have further guidelines and with more information regarding the early weeks of June. Equally, parents can browse the Ofqual website for updates and guidance at <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>.

Yours faithfully



Mr W Wharton  
Deputy Headteacher