



5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers/Students,

In his televised briefing yesterday evening, the Prime Minister, indicated that there would be no programme of final GCSE exams for the current Year 11 cohort of students. He went on to say that BTEC assessments would continue, but further guidance on how exam grades would be awarded, would be forthcoming from the DFE in due course. He mentioned that it was his expectation that students would return to school after the half term break in February. Earlier in the year, the DFE informed schools that the GCSE exam programme would begin three weeks later than usually planned, to give schools some time to teach material that may have been missed by students during the March/April lockdown.

All of this means that, unless circumstances change again, there will be over 3 months of in school teaching time plus this period of remote learning, to deliver the syllabus, and to assess student progress and attainment. It is our intention that during this time, we will **re-schedule a mock exam programme at the earliest practicable opportunity**. Additionally, the government has hinted that they may ask school for exams grades related to specific units of work or specific topics, to support the process of reaching grade judgements for students.

From today, all our lessons have moved online with teachers using our face-to-face video streaming service 'Teachstream'. Teachstream lessons have been scheduled on Frog for each day, so that they follow your daughter's timetable. Given we know that this period of Lockdown will end within a few months, it is very important that every Year 11 student attends her Teachstream lessons to give her the best opportunity of doing well in whatever assessment plan the government proposes.

If you have any problems with accessing Teachstream because devices need to be shared in the household, or the one you have, is simply not working, please let us know as soon as possible, so that we can try to help you. You can contact our IT Team here.

Please note that the BTEC Travel and Tourism exam on Friday 8th Jan at 9.am and the OCR Child Development Exam on Wednesday 13th Jan at 9.am will go ahead as planned.

In the meanwhile, rest assured that we will keep you informed of any plans or changes once we have received them from the DFE.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew McDonald-Bowyer
Deputy Headteacher