

NRC/JAE

26 April 2021



Dear Parents/Carers of Year 11 Students

I hope that this communication reaches you all in a good state of health as the country begins to move steadily out of the lockdown measures. As a school, we are continuing to take every measure possible to keep everybody safe. The good weather is most welcome as it means students are very happy to be outside utilising the field and outside space at break times.

As a school, we are most impressed with how the majority of Year 11 students continue to approach their studies. Thank you for all the support that you provide your child, it is most important. This half term is the last period of time that we have available to collect and collate all the evidence that will be used in awarding Centre Assessed Grades. For each student, an evidence portfolio is being produced. Students are involved in dialogue with their teachers about the evidence and which assessments will be used in determining their grade.

The Department for Education has made it explicitly clear that the final subject grade entered for each student must remain confidential. However, teachers are permitted to share the grade that has been awarded for each individual assessment and tests completed at school. Throughout this half term, students will experience class assessments as teachers seek to evidence the depth of student knowledge and understanding. For each assessment, students will be prepared and supported beforehand. I will state again that there will be no mock or final examinations sat in the Sports Hall. The Department for Education has continually stated that such examinations are not required in order to provide an accurate judgment. The majority of work that we are required to use as evidence, when awarding the final Centre Assessed Grade, must be completed when students are in high-level controlled conditions, such as class assessments in test conditions.

On Friday 30 April, students will be issued with a data report. This will contain their current grade for each individual subject. The grade is based on the evidence that the teacher has for each student at this moment in time. The report will also contain an effort grade and a target grade. The effort grade will enable you to see the level of effort that your child is putting into their studies. The target grade is set using the external FFT data and is a personalised aspirational target. In the absence of formal GCSE examinations, this is a very different way of assessing students and awarding grades.

The current grades that are issued in the report have been moderated both internally and externally so are an accurate judgement. There is still time for the grade to increase and we will continue to collect supporting evidence for the rest of this half term.

On Wednesday 5 May, there will be a virtual Parents' Evening. It will take place between 4-7 pm. You will be able to make 5 minute appointments with up to six teachers. Mrs Tonks will email out further guidance during the next few days. We will be using the same online platform that was used for the most recent tutor meetings. The bookings will go live at 6 pm on Wednesday 28 April. If there are still appointments available on Monday 3 May, you will be able to make extra appointments if you wish to do so.

Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

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As a school, our intention is to be transparent with all parties, including students, parents, external moderators and exam boards about the evidence that we are using in order to award final grades. We are permitted to share grades that students have been awarded when completing assessments and tests in school. Examination boards have instructed schools to use previous year's grade boundaries as the measure.

As I have already stated, we are not permitted, under any circumstances, to share the overall final grade that we share with the examination board. However, due to the dialogue that teachers are having in class and the data reports that we are providing, there should be no surprise in the official grades that students receive on Thursday 12 August.

You are always welcome to email class teachers directly. You will find all the email addresses on the school website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "N. Cousins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "N" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mr N Cousins
Deputy Headteacher