

7th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Y11 Remote learning and summer assessment update

I am sure by now that you will have heard that the move to remote learning until at least half term has led the government to change its approach to GCSE and vocational exams in the summer of 2021. Yesterday the Secretary of State for Education clearly stated that *"exams will not go ahead this summer"* and that a form of *"teacher assessed grades, with training and support provided to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently"* will be used instead. The government has launched a consultation with the teaching profession to reach agreement on the most appropriate ways for teachers to assess students and we expect to know more about what is expected of students and teachers in the coming weeks.

While we don't want to try and second guess the outcome of the consultation it is likely that your child will sit some tests (set by the school) during the summer term, as teachers will need a way to come to a fair and balanced judgment over the grade each student deserves. These tests might be similar to normal exams, they might be multiple-choice tests, or they may even be online tests. There might be practical assessments or tasks which look a bit like coursework. At this time we just don't know!

Whatever methods of assessment are chosen it is the firm belief of everyone at Wyvern St Edmund's that all students due to sit exams in the summer of 2021 *must not* be disadvantaged by their cancellation. The futures of our students depend on the professional judgments of their teachers and this is a responsibility we take very seriously. Members of staff responsible for making judgments about grades understand the weight of this responsibility and are committed to providing fair and objective grade judgments when the time comes.

As difficult as it may be, we must ask that you do not contact individual subject teachers to enquire about how grades will be assigned, or ask for any information about what grades will be assigned. In order to protect the integrity and fairness of your child's GCSE and vocational exam grades these are not requests to which we could respond. If you have any general questions about the assessment process please contact Nick Martin (Assistant Headteacher) at nmartin@wyvernsteds.org.

When the results of the consultation are known we will contact you again to inform you about the process and how GCSE and vocational exam grades will be assessed. In the meantime it is vitally important that students continue to access remote learning, engage with their Loom lessons, attend live lessons and live tutor time sessions, and continue revising. We will be monitoring their efforts carefully and teachers and tutors will be making contact frequently, especially when the work is not of the expected standard. At the same time, we will be monitoring the quality of the remote lesson experience, making sure that material is clearly

explained and well-sequenced, as well as interesting and that there is sufficient extension work for the highest achievers.

Finally, we will be listening carefully to the feedback from our students and their parents as this is the best way to find out whether the remote learning we are offering is working. We started this student feedback process yesterday with an online survey for Year 11, please encourage your child to complete this ASAP (link is on SMHW via the live tutor time). For all enquiries about lessons please contact your child's teacher in the first instance but to give more general comments about the overall remote learning experience please contact Rebecca Lee (Assistant Headteacher) at rlee@wyvernstedds.org. If you wish to discuss the Year 11 experience more generally and/or preparation for Year 12 please contact Jon Adams (Assistant Headteacher) at jadams@wyvernstedds.org.

Yours faithfully



Mr B Burley
Head of School



Mr N Martin
Assistant Headteacher



Mr J Adams
Assistant Headteacher