



North Bridge House
Senior Canonbury

Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parent,

Following the announcements earlier this week about school closures and the subsequent decision to cancel the summer exam series 2020 I would like to share with you the following information about how we plan to help support our year 11 and year 13 students over the coming months.

Although the exams may have been cancelled, the English and Welsh Governments are keen that students who were scheduled to take GCSEs and A levels this year are still awarded grades in August. The precise process and system that will be used is still unclear.

However, if we base our assumption on what is likely to happen from past exam board responses in emergency situations then it is likely that Ofqual will recommend the use of teacher assessments, externally moderated and/or triangulated, alongside existing data which the DfE holds on the school's past results.

If we are to be relying on teacher assessments as a way of determining final grades then, as schools, we shall have to be able to provide evidence over the robustness of our decisions. It is therefore crucial that as far as our year 11 and year 13 students are concerned, it is very much business as usual. There are still courses that need to be completed and preparation and revision for teacher-set assessments that will need to take place to build up our body of evidence.

It is important to note that even though students may not have any 'final' examinations to work towards as it stands, they should still be engaging in their online lessons when the time comes and embrace the learning opportunities that are available to them over the coming weeks and months.

It is also clear that many of our students are shocked and devastated by the decision to cancel the exams. They have been working hard and preparing diligently for many months and will need our support in managing this changed landscape that now faces them. We owe it to them to maintain as much normality as possible.

We have been assured by our Prime Minister that our students' progress will 'not impeded as a result of this decision' and that further advice and guidance will be available by tomorrow, Friday 20th March. Following this we shall update you with our response as necessary.

Best wishes and thank you for your support and patience at this time.

Alex Margerison
Head of Upper school