



North Bridge House
Senior Canonbury

Friday 20th March 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians,

As you may have seen, the Department for Education has published guidance on how students will receive their GCSE grades this summer. It is pleasing to see that pupils will be able to receive grades so that they are indistinguishable from those awarded in other years, i.e. a Grade 7 awarded this year will be as valuable as one awarded in 2018 and 2019.

However, as you will see from the communication, there is still a lack of clarity on how the system of teacher assessment will operate. I am working with Cognita colleagues and those in other local schools to try to ascertain how this will work. I fully appreciate the additional stress caused by this uncertainty.

At this stage, I would implore your child to continue working (particularly on past paper tasks) and put the same determination and energy into these tasks as they would have done in a final exam. All of this work will support their final grade, whatever format the teacher assessment takes. This will be particularly important for those students that have made significant improvement since the end of Year 10, preliminary examinations, and mock examinations earlier in the year.

To support this, and in addition to the work which has been set on Firefly, we will commence on-line learning no later than Thursday 26th March. Many teachers will aim to do so sooner, and exact classes students should join in on MS Teams will be posted on Firefly. Full details of how to access these lessons will be sent on Monday.

With the absence of examinations, we will use this additional time with Year 11 in the Summer Term to help prepare them for their chosen Sixth Form courses. This support will be particularly useful for students to finalise their A level subject choices and help to ensure a better transition into Year 12.

Finally, I appreciate that being away from school that your child may wish to discuss individual concerns with myself or Mr Doherty; students are very welcome to email us if they have any individual concerns.

As soon as I have further information, I will be in contact with you. Again, if you or your child have any questions, then do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Best wishes,

Alex Margerison
Head of Upper School and Sixth Form
North Bridge House Canonbury

