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3 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this finds you well. As we approach the end of the half term, we wanted to provide you with an update regarding the current position of our year 11 students.

There are lots of rumours, misinformation and myths circulating at the moment and we wanted to take the opportunity to provide you with some clarity and how we propose to move forward.

Although we are still awaiting an official outcome from OFQUAL's consultation process, which closed 31st January, there are some things we can be certain about. Notably, GCSE examinations **will not** be taking place in the summer term. Instead, grades will be awarded to pupils in all their subjects based on an evidence-based, teacher grade. Evidence will be drawn from assessments and classwork that has and will take place within subjects. It is, therefore, **extremely important** that all students continue to engage with online learning, which we know the large majority of pupils are doing and thank you for supporting your child in their online learning.

A second series of mock examinations were set to take place, in school, immediately after the upcoming half-term. These will now not be able to take place, whilst schools are only partially open. **Therefore, as part of the evidence base we will be conducting an assessment period from 8th March for two weeks.** This will involve pupils completing assessments in all their subjects that will be completed inside or outside of school depending on the national picture at that time. In the lead up to these assessments, beginning after half term, teachers will focus on preparing students for these assessments. We, of course, want our students to perform as well as they can in these assessments, therefore, it is imperative that students, continue with their hard work attending online learning and completing all work set.

It is the time of the year where college applications are being completed which often require predicted grades; if required to do so students will need to use the grades students got in their mock examinations.

Thank you for all students who have applied to Beckfoot Oakbank 6th Form, interview dates and time slots will be emailed to students by Friday 12th February and interviews will begin w/c 22nd February. They will take place over two weeks. Prior to the interview students will receive a pre interview task. **Please read and complete this prior to your interview, it is important that students are prepared.**

We will be in touch again when the DfE and OFQUAL release more concrete plans on how grades will be awarded for Year 11 and year 13 pupils.

Yours sincerely

Mr Ray
Deputy Headteacher



Headteacher: Tina Smith
CEO, Beckfoot Trust: David Horn
Chair of Academy Trustees: John Winkley

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