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Friday 26th March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer of Y11 and Y13 students

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. As you are aware, Ofqual recently held a consultation on how Year 11 and 13 students should be assessed this year. The outcomes of the consultation are as follows:

Will my child sit final examinations in summer 2021?

The government has cancelled all summer 2021 examinations due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic. Instead, students will be awarded school assessed grades (SAGs) and you will be pleased to know that no algorithm will be applied this year. The grades that will be awarded will be a 'working at' grade, rather than a prediction of what students would have achieved if they had sat the exam. As a school, we will use a wide range of evidence to determine the grades; mock examination results, in-class assessments, classwork, homework, work completed during lockdown. We are waiting for the release of materials from the exam boards which are due out at the end of this month and we will then decide how best to use these materials over the coming weeks. One assessment does not define the grade that your child will get and does not define who they are. Although one assessment will not define a pupil's grade, key assessment pieces will be influential to the grading process; for instance, the mock examinations carried out in November completed under exam conditions using past examination papers would be one of these such assessments, therefore it is unlikely that a pupil's final grade awarded within a subject will deviate too much from that grade.

Grades will be submitted to the exam boards in June and students will collect their A Level results on Tuesday 10th August and GCSE results on Thursday 12th August. Please note these dates are earlier than has been previously published.

What does this mean for my child?

The government has made it clear that students will need to be assessed on the content they have covered during Key Stage 4/5. This means that since your child has returned to school, lessons have been about consolidating the learning from Years 9, 10 and 11 for Y11 and learning from Y12 and Y13 for Y13. They have all been doing assessments in class in the lead up to the Easter holiday.

When will the final assessment be?

The final mock examinations will take place for two weeks from Tuesday 4th May. We have pushed the mocks back as far as possible to enable students to fully prepare for these exams. We would stress that students need to treat these mocks like the real thing. Assessments will be sat in full exam conditions and students will be tested on some of the content of the course which they will be told about. I am aware that some students will be stressed about the impact that one poor mark may have on the grade submitted to the exam board. I would like to reassure students that if something goes wrong once, this

Headteacher: Tina Smith
CEO, Beckfoot Trust: David Horn
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does not necessarily mean they will get a lower submitted grade because we will consider the full range of evidence we have.

What happens after the final assessment?

After the final assessment, teachers will carefully analyse the mock data and decide where the students' knowledge and skills gaps are and teach those after this time. It is important that students are prepared for their next steps onto college courses or sixth form. Teachers will then use all the evidence from all of the work that your child has done. **A school level** decision will be made on the grade awarded. This will go through a robust quality assurance process involving leaders at all levels and across the Trust. No individual teacher can make a decision on their own. We will be calling them School Assessed Grades (SAGs). Please note that your child's teacher will not be able to discuss this grade with you or your child.

We are very much looking forward to continuing the journey with Y11 and Y13 after the Easter holiday. It is important that they attend school every day and strive for a 100% attendance record from Easter.

Key dates for Y11

Monday 12 th April 8.20am	Return to school after the Easter holiday
Tuesday 4 th May 8.20am for 2 weeks	Final assessment period for all subjects.
Friday 28 th May 2.40pm	Y11 last day in school. This will include a BBQ farewell celebration with an ice cream van!
Monday 15 th June week	Y11 into sixth form induction week
Friday 18 th June 3pm	Y11 holiday request forms will be approved from after 3pm on Friday 18 th June. This is because we may be asked to recall students into school up until this point in time for grade evidence purposes. Grades will be sent off to the exam board on this day.
Thursday 15 th July 7pm	Y11 Prom at the Cedar Court Hotel, by the M606
Thursday 12 th August	GCSE results day in school – further details to follow

Key dates for Y13

Monday 12 th April 8.20am	Return to school after the Easter holiday
Tuesday 4 th May 8.20am for 2 weeks	Final mock exam period for all subjects.
Friday 28 th May 2.40pm	Y13 last day in school. This will include a BBQ farewell celebration.
Friday 18 th June	Grades will be sent off to the exam board on this day.
Tuesday 10 th August	A level results day in school – further details to follow

The Wellbeing team lead by Mr Shearn and the Year 11 team lead by Mrs Askham and the 6th form team lead by Mr Delgado, will continue to support your child throughout this time. If you need them, please get in touch.

Best wishes



Tina Smith
Headteacher



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