Dear Year 13 Students, Parent and Carers,

I hope that you have all been able to enjoy a break, albeit in rather strange circumstances. I also hope that you, your family and your friends are all safe and well and coping with the lockdown.

I am writing to you to remind you of the arrangements around the awarding of grades this summer and also with information about home learning from this point onwards. I have tried to answer some of the more common questions that you have sent in, but please do continue to email Mr Mahdi and Dr Bosher should you have other individual questions and we will all do our best to answer these for you.

What we know about how A Level grades will be awarded:
We will be asked to send examination boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what we know about your work and achievements:
• the grade we believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned (this is known as a centre assessed grade)
• within each subject, the order of students at school, by performance, for each grade.

This information will allow examination boards to standardise grades across schools, to make sure that, as far as possible, results are fair and that students are not advantaged or disadvantaged because their schools are more generous or harsh than others when making those judgements. That means the final grade you get could be different from the one the school sends to the examination board.

How will centre assessed grades be awarded?
Centre assessed grades will be based on a wide range of information relating to your performance in a subject. This is likely to include: classwork and homework; assessments and mock examinations; coursework and/or performances; progress review data and your general progress during the course. Schools are not allowed to share centre assessed grades or rankings with students or their families.

What about work completed after 20 March?
The work that you have completed since school closed can be taken into account in awarding your centre assessed grades. However, students cannot be disadvantaged if they have been unable to complete the work. If your home learning work suggests a change in performance from your usual work, we must use that information with caution, for example, if your grades at home have dropped below your usual grades, we will not allow that to lower our centre assessed grade.

If you have not yet finished your coursework/NEA you will not be disadvantaged because of this; the work that you will have produced provides your teachers with useful information. We also understand that some students perform better in certain types of assessments, for example some of you may feel you would have done better in your real examinations than in your mock examinations. This is why centre assessed grades take into account a wide range of information about your performance.

What about BTECs?
Schools will also award centre assessed grades and rankings for BTECs. Examination boards are working out exactly how this will be done for each course, and they will release guidance in the near future. When we know more information, we will share it with you through your teachers.

When will students get their results?
The Year 13 results day will be Thursday, 13 August 2020.
Will we keep learning from home?
We are now almost at the point where your final examinations would have begun. For this reason, from Monday, 27 April 2020, you will no longer be set home learning, if the course content has been covered in a subject. Some subjects may be finishing the final elements of the specification, but most will have finished. Subject Leaders will post on Show My Homework when their course has been completed.

Why do we need to have finished every course?
It is important that you have studied the whole course. This is because some of you may choose to sit examinations in the autumn term for one or more of your subjects in order to try for a higher grade than that awarded in August. Students will also be able to sit their examinations in the summer term of 2021 should they choose to. Finally, those of you wishing to continue your studies in a subject will want to have covered the full content.

Can I keep learning for longer?
Those of you who want to continue to apply your learning to examination style questions or to continue to strengthen your understanding through additional reading should let your teachers know and we will provide you with materials to do so. The Year Team will also continue to share other opportunities with you.

I hope that this has given you useful information and reassurance and has enabled you to look ahead to the positive next steps in your education, employment or training.

Finally, I take this opportunity to remind you that we continue to be here to support and advise you. Your Year Team have been pleased to hear from you and will continue to be a source of support and guidance, responding to your questions and concerns, sharing information and keeping in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Ms. C. Hames
Deputy Headteacher