



3 March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Year 13 students

Following the letter that was distributed yesterday regarding the use of the mini-assessments, I would like to clarify a few points as there has been some misunderstanding in the nature of these final mini-tests.

Firstly, all students will have a chance to do well at these mini-assessments. They are not the be all and end all cliff edge exams, but will provide further evidence to help teachers determine accurate grades. It is important that we allow students to demonstrate the knowledge and skills that they have acquired most recently to give them the best possible chance of getting the grade they deserve. However, a whole host of things will also be considered to ensure that students are not disadvantaged in any way, including all previous class tests and assessments, the diagnostic tests, PPEs and any coursework that has been completed by the students (even if the coursework has not been able to be completed). These are not A-level/BTEC examination papers, nor will they be whole papers, but selected questions that teaching staff feel best support the strengths of the students and the content they have already been taught.

Secondly, we are going to share all the content of the papers as soon as we have them so that the students can prepare adequately and effectively. Teachers will have approximately four weeks of teaching time to support this preparation.

Thirdly, no student will be disadvantaged by sitting these exams, in truth, the vast majority of students will benefit from the government's directive and the way we will administer it this year.

Lastly, tests and assessments are an important tool in deciding where students are in their learning and participation will help them demonstrate some of the hard work they have been putting in. However, we are looking to arrange these assessments in the least formal way to allow students to complete them to the best of their ability without the anxiety attached to weeks of assessments taken in exam conditions in the hall.

I hope this helps clarify the school's position.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Howells

Assistant Headteacher and Head of Sixth Form

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