

5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 Students

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to college next week for their lateral flow test on Monday and for a return to face to face teaching from Tuesday at 8.40 am.

When term ended at Christmas, students were expecting to return in January to a series of trial examinations. Since then we have been informed that GCSE examinations scheduled for May and June have been cancelled and last week the head of Ofqual (the organisation responsible for overseeing qualifications in the UK) wrote an article for students, outlining how GCSE and BTEC grades will be awarded. Students can read the article [here](#). In response to this it has been decided not to run trial examinations this year. Instead the following arrangements will apply:

From next week, teachers will help students to compile a portfolio of evidence in each subject. This will comprise a series of new in-class assessments, spread out over the remaining weeks in college, and historic evidence, such as essays, projects and papers they have completed earlier in each course. The exact nature of these assessments will vary, as every course is different.

Over the next few weeks, students can talk to their teachers about their portfolios, and what steps they can take to improve them, but teachers will not be able to tell them what their current or final overall grade will be. Students' hard work in Year 10, in the autumn term of Year 11 and in their remote learning across both college closure periods will all contribute to their portfolios. In addition they have a busy three months or so ahead and will need to continue to show a conscientious approach to their learning over this period as this too will contribute to their GCSE and BTEC grades. The next twelve weeks give students an excellent opportunity to improve further on the predicted grades they received in December.

Once the portfolios are complete, final grades will be submitted to the exam boards on Friday 18th June, and results day will be on Thursday 12th August. We will inform you about the arrangements for results day nearer the time.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Edwards or Miss McAlpine at the college.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Wingfield
Headteacher



Miss R McAlpine
Student Progress Leader Year 11