



RH/SF

April 2021

Dear Year 11 Parents and Students

As we return from the Easter break, we have now received the final guidance from the government and examination boards on how we are to determine the grades for our students this summer. All schools have to follow a model policy which we have adapted for TMWS and this is included with this letter to provide you with the full details.

Essentially teachers will be deciding the grades based on a range of evidence including coursework, the current mock exams and final assessments, which students will sit in May. We can also use evidence from throughout the course in terms of substantial tests or essays based on exam style questions. The marking of mock papers and final assessments will be carried out in line with detailed examination board mark schemes and model answers.

Teachers will meet to check each other's marking to standardise across their departments and the senior leadership team will monitor the process to ensure it is carried out robustly. We are not able to share the final grades with students or parents until results day, which is one week earlier this year, on Thursday 12 August. The grades we submit can be challenged by the exam boards, if they believe they are too generous (or too harsh). This is why we need to keep the evidence in terms of mock papers, coursework and final assessments. Once the grades are submitted students will be able to appeal their grade if we believe there has been an admin error or if they feel the process we used to determine the grade was unfair, or the school policy was not followed.

We can share the results of mock exams and give students clear feedback on how to improve. We have arranged a **parent's evening on Wednesday 28 April** which will take place via Google Classroom/Meet. You should make appointments in the usual way via E-Praise and then on the evening click on the appointment meeting link code which will be available on E-Praise on the night. This will take you to the meeting, you may have to wait for the member of staff to let you in. We have run several parent's evenings in this way now so it should all work! Alternatively, staff can be contacted via E-Praise message if you have any questions etc.

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Teachers will be doing all they can to support the students get the best possible grades but clearly we must also operate a fair and robust process and can only award grades on the evidence we have. I must stress therefore it is not appropriate to ask staff to increase a grade for any reason. Indeed the exam boards have made it clear that putting pressure on staff to increase grades will be viewed as malpractice on the part of the student for which they could be reported, and have their grades cancelled. I am confident this will not be necessary but do need to make sure you are fully aware of the regulations.

The final assessments will take place in the 2 - 3 weeks before the May half term. The **final day in school for Year 11 will be Friday 28 May 2021**, the final exam will take place that morning and will be followed by the traditional shirt signing and Leaver's Assembly. In June we will continue to support students with tasks to support progression to College and work experience opportunities. The official school leaving date is Friday 25 June but students will be working at home or be on work placements in June.

We are planning to hold a Prom in school so we can guarantee it can go ahead. This will take place on Friday 2 July, more details to follow.

We have arranged for the Year Group Leavers photograph to be taken on Friday 23 April, this will be followed by individual photographs, and an opportunity for friendship group pictures, which must be paid for on the day at £5 per person per photograph. The whole year group picture and the individual pictures will be available for to order on line later that day using the code on the cards given to the students.

Period 6 lessons are continuing this term to give students additional revision time in school with a late bus available Tuesday - Thursday for those that need it. It has been another tough year but the students have worked hard for 5 years and I am confident they will get the fantastic results they deserve this summer.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr Harrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and 'H'.

Mr Richard Harrison
Headteacher