



7th January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

You will be aware that the Government have confirmed that exams for GCSEs and A levels will definitely not take place this summer and that “a form of teacher-assessed grades” will take their place.

The Secretary of State for Education in a speech to Parliament stated:

“I can confirm that GCSEs and A and AS level exams will not go ahead this summer. This year we are going to put our trust in teachers rather than algorithms”.

We do not have any further information beyond that which has been shared publicly and do not yet have any detail about how teacher-assessed grading will take place. If the system is similar to last year, we will need to use all forms of evidence to inform our judgements – classwork; homework; effort; assessments and mock examinations etc. to form an accurate picture of each pupil’s likely achievement. We will provide you with more details as they are shared with us. **I am sure that you will appreciate, therefore, that it is absolutely vital that pupils continue to engage fully, work to the best of their ability and do all that teachers ask of them. Pupils should treat every piece of work as part of the ongoing assessment process and ensure that it is completed to the best of their ability and submitted on time, in order to maximise their potential.**

I have been extremely pleased with the very positive start that has been made with online learning. Thank you for your support with this. The vast majority of pupils have attended all on line lessons so far and engaged with the activities that have been set as part of our remote education package. If a pupil does not attend an on line lesson, we will contact home to make you aware via a text message in the first instance and then follow on with a phone call. The only exception to this would be if we have been contacted to request paper based learning due to issues with home access to ICT.

Mock examinations are planned for later this term and more detail will follow regarding this in due course. I know that pupils will be keen to know how they have performed in their mock examinations before Christmas and we will be in touch with details of how results will now be issued to pupils and parents/carers.

On Thursday night, an announcement was made about BTEC qualifications. More information about future BTEC exams and how pupils will be assessed for their qualifications will be released and we will keep you updated. At this point all pupils have been withdrawn from January BTEC examinations and in on line lessons, pupils will be focusing on outstanding BTEC components as well as completing assessed pieces of work.

As soon as we know more, we will be in touch. However, if you have any questions you can contact us via Postbox@etonecollege.co.uk.

Yours faithfully

Mr I Smith
Headteacher

