27 January 2021

Dear Year 11 Parent/ Carer,

As you will be aware, we are holding a half day INSET this Friday to allow Year 11 teachers to produce updated College Reference Forecast Grades and feed back to you more generally regarding attitude to learning and engagement during this period of remote learning. As a school we are determined to support our students in every way we can: we particularly recognise that our current Year 11 students have been significantly disadvantaged by two national lockdowns (in addition to the need to self-isolate for many students last term).

When teachers submit their new grades, they will be erring on the optimistic side when making a forecast. It is important that we ensure students can progress onto the next stage of their education and can apply to the colleges to which they aspire, however it is also important that students are progressing onto courses/colleges that are suitable and where they can thrive. For this reason, it is a fine balance of forecast grades being both optimistic and within the realms of possibility!

***It needs to be very clearly understood by parents and students that the forecast grade is not a ‘teacher assessed grade’*** ***and the final GCSE grade awarded could be significantly different to the ‘college forecast grade’.*** We have only just begun to develop students’ portfolios of evidence in each subject and where this has been assessed it has not yet been moderated. We also await further guidance from Ofqual regarding the assessment of Year 11 students and the awarding of GCSE grades.

***Your child’s report including updated ‘college reference grades’ will be available on the SIMs Parent App on Tuesday 2nd February***. This will allow students to complete applications for those colleges that have early February deadlines. If you have not yet activated the app, an e-mail with a new activation code has been sent to you (please check your junk mail/ unfocussed inbox). If you are having difficulties accessing the new forecast grades document for your child please e-mail info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk and a member of staff will contact you.

Kind regards

**Ms Kennedy**
**Associate Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher**