25 February 2021

Dear Year 11 Parents/ Carers,

Our teaching staff are looking forward to meeting with you this evening in our first ‘remote’ Parent/Carers’ Evening to feedback on your child’s progress in her subjects. We do recognise that this is an incredibly difficult and, for many, a frustrating time, in the educational journey of our Year 11 students: we will continue to do everything within our power to enable your daughter to access the next appropriate steps in her education.

With this intention, teachers provided updated ‘optimistic’ college reference forecast grades. However,  ***teachers are not currently in a position to discuss potential final centre assessed grades of students beyond this reference grade so please focus your discussions during the parents’ evening with subject teachers around progress, engagement and targets for development.***

Ofqual have today provided further guidance to schools regarding the assessment of Year 11 students nationally and we will be looking carefully at this before sharing future plans with you for assessing students. Last year Ofqual made it clear that any discussion of grades with students and parents/carers prior to submission was forbidden and could be investigated as malpractice. Until we have clarification over grading, ***teachers will be advised that the discussion of final centre assessed grades with parent/carers and students will continue to be forbidden***. Rest assured that we will do all that we can to ensure that all of our students are awarded an evidence based fair grade in each of their subjects.

In anticipation of our return to face-to-face learning from 8th March, some Year 11 students have been anxious that they will be returning to mock examinations: to be clear, we do not have ‘mock exams’ scheduled this half term! Individual subjects may carry out assessments within lessons and give students advanced notice, however we will be using the Ofqual guidance to inform any future assessment plans. Any formal assessments will be held after the Easter holidays and information will be shared in advance with students and parents/carers.

Kind regards

Ms Kennedy

**Associate Headteacher/ Deputy Headteacher**