

February 26<sup>th</sup> 2021

Dear Year 10 students, parents and carers

### Exam arrangements for summer 2021

As you will have seen in the media, we now have a better overall idea of what the exam system will look like this year although we do not yet have the fine detail.

#### We do know the following:

- There will not be any externally set exams
- Schools will look at all the available evidence that we have for each individual in each subject - classwork, homework, assessment, mocks etc - and assess it against the grade criteria before giving a 'best fit' grade. We are looking to use your best work, not catch you out!
- At Fairfield we will moderate grades within subjects; they will be scrutinized by Heads of Faculty, then SLT and signed off by me; they can be changed at any stage before they are submitted.
- Exam boards are producing training / sample material to help teachers clarify the expectations for each grade.
- Grades will be submitted to exam boards by June 18<sup>th</sup> so we will be making grade decisions by May half term, unless there is more disruption.
- Exam boards may ask for a sample of evidence from different subjects or individuals in a school (in much the same way that they do now) to moderate standards between schools, so we want to make sure we have solid, high quality evidence for all of you.
- There will not be comparisons with previous years' results, or percentages of results for each grade.
- Exam results day will be August 12<sup>th</sup> NOT August 19<sup>th</sup>. Your results will be posted to you.
- There will be an appeals process if it is needed.

#### What does this all mean?

- We will use the information above to submit grades for English Literature and RS for you (unless we have already removed your entry due to individual circumstances).
- There will NOT be mock exams in March for you in RS and English Literature as per the school calendar, but you WILL have a formal assessment or in-school exam for those two subjects at the beginning of **May** so that we have a final piece of very clear evidence for your grade. You WILL have an exam week in **June** for all your other subjects.
- You need to carry on working hard in every subject. You have worked well during lockdown and because of that you are not 'behind'; we have plenty of time left to consolidate your learning and make sure you are ready to take your GCSEs and vocational exams in summer 2022.

I look forward to seeing you back in school very soon!

Sue Gaston