

February 26th 2021

Dear Year 11 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 18th 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 12th NOT August 19th.
- There will be an appeals process if it is needed.

What does this all mean?

- You will come back to school on Friday March 12th and we will continue the timetable as normal until at least May half term.
- There will NOT be mock exams in March as per the school calendar, but we WILL have some sort of school formal assessment week at the beginning of May so that we have a final piece of very clear evidence of how much you deserve terrific grades!
- We hope to be able to have your end of school celebrations - we will know more nearer the time.
- You will carry on working hard and generally being fantastic as you have done all along! You have worked incredibly 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 go on to college or training post-16.

I hope that helps to put some minds at rest. It will be so great to see you back in school very soon!

Sue Gaston