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Dear Parent/Carer and Pupil

Year 10: Exams, Parents' Evening and Reports

As we begin to get closer towards the end of what has been a very unusual academic year and coronavirus restrictions are easing somewhat, I wanted to inform you of some important events which we are planning for our Year 10 pupils.

Firstly, we will be holding school exams in our theatre (Covid restrictions permitting) during the week beginning 21st June. This gives four school weeks from today plus the half term week for pupils to revise. The exams will be based on all of the work undertaken since September 2020. Pupils will have exams in all of the core and option subjects, although in some cases the exams may be undertaken in class. There won't be an exam in English Literature because most pupils are receiving a full GCSE grade in English Literature this summer using the same Centre-Determined Grades process that has been used with Year 11.

There are three key reasons why we are holding these exams:

1. Year 10 pupils have not yet had any experience of sitting GCSE/BTEC exams. There is a reasonable probability that their grades in summer 2022 will be based, at least partly, on exam performance, so gaining this experience will be helpful.
2. Exams are a good check on what pupils have learnt up to this point. Exam results help teachers and pupils plan in order to plug any gaps in knowledge, understanding and skills.
3. There is a possibility, if there is a resurgence of coronavirus at any point during the 2021/22 academic year, that pupils' grades may have to be determined by teachers (as happened in 2020 and is happening again in 2021). Under these circumstances, having work that pupils have completed in exam conditions will be extremely helpful.

It is important that pupils do their very best in these exams, particularly in relation to points 2 and 3 above. Therefore, please encourage your child(ren) to revise thoroughly and put maximum effort into these exams. The work they produce might contribute to their final GCSE/BTEC grade. Teachers will provide revision lists in each subject so that pupils know what they need to learn.



It is worth noting that there are likely to be adaptations to the course content for the GCSEs/BTECs which your children are studying as a result of the disruption to their education over this academic year. The WJEC is currently concentrating on the complex issues around the awarding of grades for Year 11 and Year 13 pupils. Once that process is complete, my understanding is that the focus will move to Years 10 and 12 and we should receive information in due course about any course adaptations. There is no need for pupils or parents to worry about this. Once we receive the information, we will ensure that pupils are properly prepared for their GCSEs/BTECs for summer 2022. None of the work undertaken to date will go to waste.

Once the exams are completed, we will be producing an end of year report for each pupil. This will include indicators for their Attitude to Learning, Behaviour and Independent Study. It will also include their current attainment grade alongside their target grade for summer 2022. The current attainment grade will be partly or wholly based on pupils' exam performance, depending upon the subject. Finally, the report will include a brief comment by the teacher, particularly focusing on progress made since schools re-opened in March 2021 following the second lockdown. These reports will be issued right at the end of term on Friday 16th July.

Before then, we intend to hold a virtual Parents' Evening via Teams on Monday 5th July from 3.30 p.m. – 6.30 p.m. There will be a booking system which will allow you to book a 5-minute slot to speak to the teachers you would most like to discuss your child(ren)'s progress with on a first-come first-served basis. Further details will follow. Please remember too that, if you have any immediate concerns in relation to your child(ren)'s education, you can ring the school on the number above at any point and we will ensure that the right person gets back to you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully



ALAN TOOTILL
Headteacher