

8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Year 11 Parents' Evening – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

We are very much looking forward to meeting with you, remotely, on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March for our Year 11 parents' evening to discuss your child's progress.

It will have been hard to miss the high-profile reporting in the press over recent weeks which has looked at how GCSE grades will be awarded this year in the absence of summer exams. This process will of course form large parts of your discussions with your child's teachers.

#### Here is what we know:

- Schools must assess their students' performance, only on what content has been delivered to them by their teachers, to determine the grade each student should receive.
- Importantly – **this is different from last year's CAGs** where schools were asked to predict a grade that a child would most likely achieve had exams gone ahead.
- This year schools must **collect evidence of a student's performance from throughout the course to inform their judgement.**
- Grades should be determined as late in the academic year as is practical, to enable teaching to continue for as long as possible.
- Schools and colleges should use a broad range of evidence across the taught content to determine the grades before submitting the grades to the exam boards.

#### Important information for parents:

- We are required to inform parents and students which evidence we will be using to decide grades – understandably, this will likely come from any previous tests, mock exams, coursework and classwork your child has completed.
- In addition, we will provide clear timelines for any future assessments your child will sit.
- We will be clear with you about the evidence we will use but we are **not allowed to tell you, or your child, the grade we submit.** This is very clear in the guidance we have received.

Although we cannot say what grade your child will be awarded, even after internal assessments have been sat, there are still lots of questions you can be asking to support your child and ensure they make maximum progress from now. Based on this we thought it important to give some guidance to ensure that Wednesday's conversations are as productive as possible:



<b><u>Questions we cannot answer!</u></b>	<b><u>Questions we absolutely can answer!</u></b>
<p>What grade will you be submitting?</p> <p>What grade do you think my child is on track to achieve because they've worked really hard?</p> <p>Will my child get their grades to go on to study at A-Level?</p> <p>Do you think my child is on for a grade 9?</p> <p>If they got a 4 in their mock do you think their final grade will be the same/higher than this?</p>	<p>What grades did my child secure in their progress test (Oct) and mock exams (Dec)?</p> <p>Tell us the scope evidence that will be used to determine a child's grade in this subject.</p> <p>What topic areas should my child revise or work on to improve their performance (and sources of revision materials to support)?</p> <p>What future assessments will my child be sitting in this subject and how can they best prepare for them?</p> <p>What is the timeline for assessments and grades being awarded?</p> <p>What arrangements are in place to ensure grades are fair and reasonable?</p>

Over the coming weeks we will be working closely to support and prepare Year 11s to make sure every child achieves the very best grades possible, as we would in any normal year. As we have said to them today in assembly, they have "nothing to lose, and everything to gain". It is all to play for now!

Finally, if you have not yet done so please do log on and book your appointments with your child's teacher. Booking will close on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 11.00 p.m. Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the school office. To make appointments please visit <https://thedeanacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk>. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the school office who will be happy to organise for staff to telephone you instead.

Yours sincerely



**Richard Brand**  
Headteacher

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