

5th January 2021



Year 11 letter

Dear parent/carer,

In the letter that has gone out to all parents today, I stated the following:

“the Prime Minister mentioned GCSE examinations this summer in his speech. A lot of people have interpreted it as meaning that the exams are cancelled, when in fact this is not necessarily the case. The wording was that all exams in the summer cannot go ahead as planned. Therefore, there could still be some exams, just not all of them. For example, there has been talk of students sitting one maths exam instead of three and working out a grade from that. We will have to wait for further guidance about how results will be decided. However, we would just like to reassure parents that we will be doing everything that we can to ensure students are rewarded fairly for their work.”

Whilst we cannot control what happens with the exams, we can control how we engage in remote learning. By engaging fully with online learning we can ensure that students are in the strongest position possible, whatever the government decides.

We would like to thank you all for ensuring that your child does the work set, to the best of their ability. **We have had 91.5% of our students in year 11 attend lessons today**, which is pleasing but we are always aiming for 100%!

All students will be coming back to school after half term and we don't want anybody to fall behind their peers. As we are so close to the end of year 11, it will be very difficult for them to catch up at this stage. Students who attend all of their lessons everyday will be in a good position, if some of the exams were to go ahead. Equally, if the government opted for the same method as last year where teachers gave students a Centre Assessed Grade (CAG), they would also be in a strong position to be awarded a good grade.

Teachers will be using these next few weeks to continue teaching students in preparation for an exam and collecting evidence of what they are capable of achieving. This evidence will be called upon if teachers have to give a CAG.

I need to make you aware at this point that if your child does not engage in the online learning and we have to give a CAG, it will not be possible for teachers to give them a grade that is any better than their mock grade in that subject. On the other hand, if your child does engage in the online learning, teachers will have evidence to potentially give them higher than their mock grade.

We would want to give all students the best grades that we possibly can so that they can go on to

their next steps in education or training. Please help us to do that by ensuring they work as hard as they can over the lockdown period.

We appreciate that this can be difficult for parents but you have our full support. Staff are available every working day, online, to support children with the work they have set. Also, if you have any issues please contact us by using the help@tanfieldschool.co.uk email address.

Please take care,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Clough', written in a cursive style.

Mr S Clough
Headteacher