

6th January 2021

Year 11 letter about Exams

Dear parent/carer,

I'm sure you will have heard that the Education Secretary has announced today that all exams will be cancelled this summer and replaced with a teacher-assessed grade. However, he was vague on what this actually means. The DfE are launching a consultation next week and will be giving training and support to teachers to ensure that the grades are awarded fairly.

I did make reference to this possibility in my letter to you yesterday. Therefore, it hasn't come as a surprise. I want to reassure you that we have had measures in place to ensure that all of our students will have the evidence required for the grades we give.

This information means that all of the BTEC exams that were due to take place in the next few weeks will no longer go ahead.

We were one of the few schools who did a full suite of mocks carried out in real exam conditions last term. We used the 2019 exam series in most subjects, which were the last lot of real exams that have taken place across the country. We also used the accompanying grade boundaries to assign our mock grades. Therefore, we have a very robust evidence base to start from. We have assessed students three times a year through formal assessments in exam conditions, giving us a wealth of information about how your child has been progressing over the last few years.

Students will be set work over the coming weeks and months that will continue to strengthen this evidence base. As I mentioned in yesterday's letter, engagement in online learning is more important than ever. Students who work hard and do everything possible over the coming weeks can improve their mock grades. Students who do not do the work will not have the evidence to be given a higher grade than their mock grade and in fact will probably be given a lower grade. I can't stress how important this is. We have experience from last year which shows that this is the case.

We really want to give all of our students the best grades possible, that are a fair reflection of the work they have produced. Therefore, please support us in collecting this evidence, by ensuring your child is accessing all of their remote learning lessons. **We will do everything in our power to get your child the grades they deserve.**

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your ongoing support. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us via email on help@tanfieldschool.co.uk.

Take care and stay safe,

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

Mr S Clough
Headteacher