



5 January 2021

Dear parents, carers and students

Year 11: Government announcement regarding summer 2021 examinations

I am desperately saddened to be writing to you today that following all the dedicated hard work of our students over the last two and half years, through no fault of their own, it has been announced that the expected approach to examinations in summer 2021 is not going ahead as result of the pandemic.

You will have heard through the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday evening that *'it is not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead as normal and alternative arrangements'* are going to be worked up by the exam regulator (Ofqual) and the Department for Education (DfE).

You may have also heard in the media today that *'exams are cancelled'*. It remains unclear what the alternative arrangements will be and so I would encourage you all not to take this headline at face value – but clearly it is going to be different to what students have been expecting.

The Government's Education Secretary is due to make an announcement on Wednesday 6 January to outline his plans for what is going to happen instead.

And so, I do not want students to lose focus, or motivation, or stop working in their subjects now, because what they have been able to do and demonstrate through work and assessment in school may well help inform the final grade they are given in summer 2021 in each subject.

You will know that Year 11 mocks are scheduled to take place starting Monday 25th January. **Our plan is that mocks will still go ahead by students completing these from home.** Clearly it will be different to the approach had it been done in school. However, cancelling the mocks is not a realistic option for our students as the scores they achieve may well help inform the final grades they get in the summer.

In my letter to you on 9 December 2020 I said that we would hold a webinar for Year 11 students and parents regarding our plans to support each Year 11 student prepare for their mocks and our plans to support each student prepare well for their summer 2021 examinations.

The webinar is going ahead as planned **on Thursday 7th January at 6.00 pm.** You will need to register your place on the webinar and you can do this by following this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uNU2swA1Q9WPKNJSQuI2uQ

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. If you have any problems with registration, please contact Mrs Ruth Harrison at harrisonr@lowtonhs.wigan.sch.uk.

I will give more detail around our plans for remote teaching, the mocks and give an update on what has been announced by the Government's Education Secretary.

With all best wishes,

Yours faithfully

Kieran Larkin
Headteacher

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING

