

21 May 2021

To all parents in Year 10

I am delighted to start this letter with the news that during Christian Aid week last week the kind contributions of you and your child meant that raised close to **£1000**. This fits well with our social action principle of giving back and to help those in need. We know this money will play a part in improving the lives of others less fortunate than ourselves.

## End of year assessments

When students returned to school after the most recent lockdown we intentionally focused on getting them back into learning and deliberately did not focus on assessment. After the May half term break, we will enter a period of establishing an end of year position to report to students and parents on how your child is doing in each subject.

As you are aware, this has been an unusual year and I wanted to allay any worries that either you or your child may have.

Firstly, these are **not** mock examinations. In light of the unprecedented year that has taken place it would not be appropriate to carry out mock examinations at this point in your child's GCSE course. Mock examinations will take place in Year 11 and you will receive information regarding these at the beginning of Year 11.

These assessments will be based **only** on what has been taught throughout the year. It is an opportunity for subject teachers to assess what your child knows and to help inform our planning for their next academic year.

Heads of Department have looked very carefully at what was accessed during lockdown and will only include topics that have been taught during this period based on the following criteria:

- students have engaged fully with these topics; or,
- these topics have been retaught since the return to school.

End of year examinations will take place in all subjects except RS, in which students have completed graded assessments and will be awarded their GCSE grade this year. Students will sit the vast majority of these examinations in the Sports Hall.

We are holding an assembly on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May to explain to Year 10 students the importance of these examinations and the protocols they need to learn and get used to when sitting examinations.

The assessments will span three weeks, starting Monday 24<sup>th</sup> May and end on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June. All the examinations in the first week are classroom based as they are practical subjects: art, photography and creative iMedia. The details of these are posted on the noticeboard in Satchel:One. Students have received their individual timetables this week.

Staff have been working closely with students preparing them for these assessments:

- PSHE teachers are going through the exam information with students in lessons, ensuring that students understand their timetables and know how to prepare.
- Form teachers are reinforcing this information in form time.
- Subject teachers are helping prepare students in class.

Please support your child at home by encouraging them to revise. Students should be spending one to two hours each night preparing for these examinations.

Please contact your child's head of year, Miss. Green, in the first instance, if you have any queries regarding these assessments.

Yours faithfully,

**Kieran Larkin**  
Headteacher

## CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING