



YEAR 13 SIXTH FORM BULLETIN, January 2021

Dear Sixth Form Students, Parents & Carers

Well, I certainly did not think I would have to be writing to students and families in a situation where we had been forced into another remote learning time with exams up in the air again. I can only imagine the heartbreak that students will have experienced after the announcements made by the Prime Minister in his address last night and all our Sixth Form community are in my thoughts as I type. This difficult decision has been made with the safety of our loved ones and our community in mind.

As a Year 13 cohort we have seen multiple cases of this illness in the last few weeks, we asked you all to isolate over Christmas, some families have lost loved ones and I am writing this from my bed having been struck with coronavirus during the holiday. As a group of students, you have been so resilient and worked so hard, doing everything that has ever been asked of you and more. **You deserve every success and you will make the world a better place because of who you are, not just your grades.** It is an absolute delight working with you all to navigate to this point and my privilege to say I am your Head of Sixth Form. Myself and my team will do all we can to support you over the coming weeks as it is so important to stay engaged and motivated to ensure you get the qualification you deserve.

The Prime Minister stated yesterday that "it is not possible for all exams to go ahead in the summer as planned" and that they will work with Ofqual "to consult rapidly to put in place alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly".

We are awaiting further information on how you will be assessed and how grades will be awarded, (there is an announcement planned for the House of Commons tomorrow afternoon). Year 13 PPEs will be postponed so that you can continue working on content and be assessed by your teachers. PPEs will return at the end of February in examination conditions, but I would ask you to consider the three points below that will hopefully provide some re-assurance.

1 Your hard work will still be recognised. None of the effort you have shown since September 2019, and will continue to show will be wasted.

2 Your eventual results will be indistinguishable from real exams. In the long run it will not matter that your grades came from this system. You will still be able to progress to your chosen destination in the normal way. The value of the qualification is not being altered only the way it is being administered.

3 The new system will be fair and balanced. Grades will have to be awarded on objective evidence and will have to be moderated meticulously to ensure they are fair and consistent.

I know that it is asking a lot of you all, on top of everything you have been through already, but you must take these points on board, try to keep a positive mindset and keep going despite any shock and disappointment.

At the time of writing the [DFE have confirmed that L3 BTEC examinations](#) will continue as planned and are due to commence tomorrow for our Business / Sports Science students. Mrs Ellams and the exam team will be keeping in touch, and I wish students sitting L3 assessments over the coming days and weeks the very best of luck.



Over the coming days when more information is shared with school leaders I will be in touch, in the meantime, if any students want to reach out, myself, Miss Foster and the tutor team are on hand via email / phone.

With best wishes and thank you for all your ongoing support.

S. Moffatt.

Mr Stephen Moffatt

Assistant Headteacher: Head of Sixth Form