**To all Year 11 students:**

As you are all aware, the government has decided that this year’s GCSE summer examinations have been cancelled as we fight to stop the spread of coronavirus.

The Government’s priority is now to ensure that you can move on as planned to the next stage of your education, including starting college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn.

This means ensuring you are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that you have put in.

Ofqual (the department responsible for exams in the UK) will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade which reflects your performance as fairly as possible, and we will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know you well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe you would have received if exams had gone ahead.

To produce this, your teachers will consider a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment, as well as how well you were performing in class. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment (your SAT results from primary school), and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work you have put in.

The aim is to provide these GCSE grades to you before the end of July. In terms of a permanent record, the grades will be indistinguishable from those provided in other years. The government will also aim to ensure that the distribution of grades follows a similar pattern to that in other years, so that you do not face a disadvantage as a consequence of these extraordinary circumstances.

This is a statement from Gavin Williamson - Education Secretary:

***“Cancelling exams is something no Education Secretary would ever want to do; however these are extraordinary times and this measure is a vital but unprecedented step in the country’s efforts to stop the spread of coronavirus.***

***My priority now is to ensure no young person faces a barrier when it comes to moving onto the next stage of their lives – whether that’s further or higher education, an apprenticeship or a job.***

***I have asked exam boards to work closely with the teachers who know their pupils best to ensure their hard work and dedication is rewarded and fairly recognised.”***

We recognise that some of you may nevertheless feel disappointed that you haven’t been able to sit your exams. If you do not believe the correct process has been followed you will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if you do not feel your calculated grade reflects your performance, you will have the opportunity to sit an exam at the earliest reasonable opportunity, once schools are open again. You will also have the option to sit your exams in summer 2021.

**It is very important that you continue to do some GCSE revision in case the grade you receive is not what you had expected and therefore you will need to sit a GCSE examination in the future. It is also important to keep learning over the coming weeks especially in subjects that you wish to study in the autumn.**