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Headmaster: David Clark, BA, M Phil (Cantab)

3rd June 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing to provide further details about our annual assessment week, which commences on the 15th of June. The first thing you will notice is that we are not calling it 'exams week'. This change is to reflect the fact that given these tests will take place at home, we can't ensure absolute objectivity. Hence, we have changed the nature of the tests in the following way:

Year 7 and 8 – Will be off timetable for the week. They will be set a range of assessment tasks at the start of the week and can work through them in their own time. Getting all their assessments at the start of the week might be overwhelming for some students. Therefore, a clear indication of the time expected on each piece of work will be provided and we recommend that students plan to do around 2 or 3 pieces of work a day. Teachers will be available in the normal lesson slots in case students have any questions or problems.

Year 9 – To help inform the options process we provide tracking and grades throughout the year. The end of year exams are usually the final piece of the jigsaw in terms of choosing options. This year that is not possible. Therefore, students will be set assessments throughout the week in their lessons. The grades will still be useful but any formal examination, for example finalising who is doing Triple Science will be put off until the Autumn term.

Students may choose not to complete assessments in subjects they are dropping for GCSE. My recommendation is for most students to continue to go to all lessons and complete all assessments. They may still change subjects, and this keeps all their options open. A final options choice form with the finalised option columns will come out in the next couple of weeks. Currently, around 92% of students have received all their preferred options. Therefore, there shouldn't be too many students who need to revise their options.

Year 10 and 12 – For years 10 and 12 assessments will be focused around GCSE and A Level/BTEC content and skills. For some subjects this may mean students complete GCSE and A Level papers as normal. For other subjects, where short answers can simply be looked up by a student, there may be more project based or revised assessments.

In all cases, staff will be informing students what they need to revise and where these materials can be found on Firefly, or indeed what online revision platforms they should use. Many students in Year 10 and 12 also have physical revision guides which will be of use. Should a student be unsure of what they need to revise they should contact their teacher for that subject.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr C. Austen-White