



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

5th January 2021

Dear all,

With the announcement last night from the Prime Minister about the National Lockdown and that GCSE exams will not take place this summer in the normal way, I wanted to write to you to explain a few things. Over the next few days, we are likely to start to receive some indication of what will replace exams, but there is a potential that this could be based on a similar system to the exam series of 2020. These involved teachers assessing your performance using classwork, homework, PPE results and other evidence. As soon as we know more information, we will get in touch with you. Until then I urge you to ensure that you are doing the following:

- 1) Keep working hard, completing all work set through online lessons and emails from your teachers. Every piece of work that you still complete will make a difference
- 2) Ensure that you are completing your applications for sixth form, colleges and apprenticeships. These organisations will be fully aware of the decision by the Government and the fact that your exam results this year will take a slightly different format. It is crucial therefore that your applications still go ahead
- 3) Communicate with your teachers with topics that you need support with or additional guidance. They will be on their emails to help you in anyway they can, and as I said, every piece of work that you are doing will still make a difference
- 4) Do not presume anything, or follow anything that you read on social media regarding exams and coursework. Please always wait until you have had official confirmation as a school. Last night's decision has obviously caused a huge amount of frustration and emotion for students, staff and parents, but it is crucial now more than ever that we follow the specific guidance to ensure that you can get the best possible results

As with the exam season of 2020, the new system will be fair and balanced. Grades will be awarded based on objective evidence. Any grades that your teachers set will be moderated carefully, to ensure they are consistent within and between schools. If any parent or student were to be disappointed with their eventual grade, we expect there to be a mechanism to appeal and take a follow-up exam in the autumn, just as there was last time.

It is essential Year 11 that you keep going. Keep working hard, completing all the work that is asked of you and keep communicating for support. We will be in touch again as soon as we know more information.

Many thanks,

Mr S Derry
Headteacher



