



HEDINGHAM SCHOOL
AND SIXTH FORM
ACHIEVEMENT & EXCELLENCE

Official/Sensitive

7 October 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to update you with some of our intended plans to support Year 11 students through this important academic year. We have been impressed with the focused and mature start to the term that students have made. They have settled quickly into a learning routine which has been a welcome sight. As much as we appreciate the significant home learning efforts of many Year 11 students during lockdown, we remain conscious of the importance of supporting students with misconceptions or gaps in their knowledge. We are aware that there may be a need to revisit, clarify and consolidate content covered during lockdown with a view to support students as they work towards their final GCSE examinations. Therefore, a programme of intervention has been designed to offer students access to a variety of additional support. I have communicated the overview of this plan to Year 11 students to try and reassure them and provide a transparency about the path ahead. Although there remains some uncertainty, we will continue to keep you and your children in the picture as central developments are confirmed.

What We Know

Ofqual have confirmed some, but limited, changes to GCSEs this year. These include, reducing content demands in GCSE History, removing the poetry anthology in English Literature, removal of the requirement to undertake a field trip in GCSE Geography and amendments to the practical activities in subjects such as Science, Art and Drama.

What We Do Not Know

There has yet to be any decision on the nature and timing of GCSE exams next summer. There is, however, a strong intention to enable all students to sit exams in summer 2021. Any move to delay the summer exam series has yet been confirmed. There is also no confirmation of the requirement for Centre Assessed Grades (as we witnessed last year). However, we are aware that this might be a feature of GCSE assessment this year which heightens the importance of future internal unit/mock tests for students in our Year 11 cohort.

Next Steps

Our intention is to support, encourage and prepare our Year 11 students as effectively as possible. Mrs Cook has planned and initiated a first phase of support for students that complements work done in lesson time. The details of this will be in a follow up letter. We have been encouraged by the increasing number of students attending these additional opportunities (especially within Science where numbers after school have been excellent).

Please feel free to contact the school with any enquiries that you have. We do recognise that the path towards examination is often equally as stressful for parents as it is our students.

Yours sincerely

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Deputy Headteacher

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