

3 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We look forward to meeting with you in our virtual Parents Evening on Thursday 4 March. Each parent has a progress appointment with either a member of the Academy Leadership Team or a member of the Year 11 team to discuss progress this year and how grades will be calculated in the summer. Below are key questions and answers which may help you with some of the queries you may currently have.

Key questions and answers:

Does my child need to attend for the rest of Year 11?

Yes. The next three months are crucial for your child. They must attend the academy every day.

How will grades be decided this summer?

- Grades will be decided by teachers but cannot be shared with students or parents
- Grades will be based on a number of different factors:
 - (i) engagement with learning so far
 - (ii) previous assessments
 - (iii) previous demonstration of learning and understanding
 - (iv) engagement with learning over the next 3 months
 - (v) mini assessments over the next 3 months
 - (vi) assessments in May (covering only the topics that departments feel have been fully covered)

No grades have yet been decided for any student for any subject and there is everything still to play for.

What will my child be doing in lessons?

- Completing content not yet covered
- Revision schedule for May assessments
- Completion of any practical elements to the course
- Completion of coursework / controlled assessments for vocational subjects

How else will we support your child to get the grade they deserve?

- All lessons will be highly productive and will focus on revision for the May assessments or completion of compulsory coursework / controlled assessment
- Boost and Secure will restart w/c 15 March
- Ready to Learn (R2L) interventions will restart w/c 15 March
- Focus on revision skills and techniques which will be essential not just for May assessments but also for future progression

What if my child no longer engages with learning – will they receive their tracking 2 grade?

- Tracking-2 was our prediction at the time of tracking, assuming your child will continue to fully engage with learning
- Grades can be improved with further advice and support in lessons and through Boost and Secure and R2L intervention
- Grades may drop with lack of engagement
- Tracking-2 does **not** give final grades, these will be calculated at the end of May based on all the evidence that we have available

Why do I need to continue learning, I have already secured a place in Sixth Form / college?

- You must meet the entry requirements to get into Sixth form / college, there is no automatic guaranteed entry. For level 3 courses this is a minimum of 5 subjects at grade 4 and above
- To continue a subject at A level you must secure at least a grade 6 in the subject
- Places in 6th form/colleges can be gained and lost in these final 3 months

If I receive my grades in the summer and I am unhappy with the grades what can I do?

The Department of Education have provided information on an appeals procedure for Summer 2021 results. This can be viewed at the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

If you have any further queries after Parents Evening on Thursday please do not hesitate to contact the Year 11 team or myself.

Yours faithfully

K Harker

Mr K Harker
Vice Principal