



14th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to families today to clarify and outline what the next few months will hold for Year 11. An assembly was delivered to Year 11 students on Thursday 14th January outlining the content of this letter. It is important that there is clarity about how we will collectively proceed through the rest of Year 11. There are clear challenges that all stakeholders (students, families and staff) are currently experiencing and there are challenges ahead. As a school we have an exceptional track record for progress and results at GCSE and our results have improved consistently each year to place the school's outcomes for students and to retain them, in the top 1% of all schools nationally. It is against this backdrop that we will continue to plan and set up the structure and conditions to ensure that all our students are given the opportunities to continue to make excellent progress.

### **Mock Exams - Mock Results Day**

The Mock Examination programme was interrupted in the lead up to Christmas. As a result we amended the schedule to ensure that this was completed by the end of the term. The programme continued until the final day of the term and therefore some staff were unable to access the papers for marking until the New Year. Also, over the holiday period there was some impact on staff and their families from Covid which continued into the school term. We had planned to hold a Mock Results Day to replicate the actual GCSE results day with students arriving and opening their personalised envelope, with a number of staff present to celebrate their success, to guide and support them towards next steps and choices, or facilitate reflection on making improvements. Unfortunately this will not now take place as scheduled on Friday 15th January and the Mock Results sheet will instead be emailed to families and students together with the Full Report.

### **Missed Mock Exams**

Students who have missed some aspect of the mock examination programme will have an opportunity in the coming months to address this. The provision around incomplete Mock Examinations will be addressed in the letter accompanying the Full Report.

### **Full Reports & Parents' Evening**

The Parents' Evening scheduled for Thursday 21st January has therefore been moved as a result of the disruption and will now take place on Wednesday 27th of January, between 4.30pm and 7.00pm. Full Reports will be emailed to both students and parents in the week beginning Monday 25th January. Within this report will be a detailed outline of all aspects of the Mock Results, Current and Predicted Grades. The letter accompanying the Full Report will give a breakdown of how those grades are determined.

The Parents' Evening will operate virtually with appointments available in bookable 5 minute slots. A letter with specific information on how to book appointments with teachers will be emailed to families on Tuesday 19th January. It is vitally important that the five minute appointments are used exclusively to discuss your daughters' progress within that subject. There will be more opportunities for students to improve both their current and predicted grades and this will be communicated at appropriate times. Staff have been directed to focus exclusively on student progress and as such are not in a position to speculate with regards to the different methods of assessment, that may or may not be used, in determining teacher assessed and moderated grades within the school.

### **Non Examined Assessments**

NEAs (Non Examined Assessments) form part of some subjects' overall GCSE grade. The subjects concerned are Art, Drama, Food Technology, Health and Social Care, Music, PE and Design and Technology. Provision had been made for dedicated time in these subjects over the coming weeks as we had anticipated some disruption to the start of the Spring term and had scheduled them to begin in the coming two weeks. This is now under review and those subjects will have more information available for Parents' Evening, to share with students and families, about what provision is now possible, remotely in the coming weeks.



# Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School

*Educating Women of the Future*

## **Expectations of students**

We have a growing base of information regarding the progress of students. The autumn term mock examinations will (in all likelihood) form part of the picture when it comes to teacher assessed and moderated grades. Other factors will be considered in line with what has happened previously. Currently, Gavin Williamson is opening a consultation with a range of stakeholders to determine what further assessments may be introduced to bring consistency to the awarding of grades nationally. This is subject to change at any point due to the continuing impact of the pandemic and the response of the Government. What we can say with certainty, is that students will be expected to continue to engage with their education until June 2021. It is to be expected that schools will need to submit their teacher assessed and moderated grades in June 2021. It is therefore vital that all students:

- continue to engage with 'Live Lessons'
- continue to complete assignments and tasks to the best of their ability
- attend school in person when able
- prepare for Non Examined Assessments
- prepare for any further mock examinations
- continue to invest in themselves by working hard

Students will have opportunities to build up a profile of evidence that will support teachers in assessing their progress. It is likely that further mock examinations or assessments in controlled conditions will be utilised for students to exhibit their progress. We will provide students with every opportunity possible.

## **Queen Elizabeth's Girls' School Sixth Form**

The deadline of Friday 22nd January for submitting subject choices for transfer into our sixth form, remains the same and our students can do this online via our website. The Sixth Form team will have access to student assessment data by the deadline so students should input their most recent predicted grades to check against the general and specific subject entry criteria. The Taster day that was scheduled will still take place and new outline arrangements will be communicated when we have a clearer idea about when we may return to school.

We look forward to seeing you at the Year 11 Parents' Evening on Wednesday 27th January 2021. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Martin Duffy  
**Deputy Headteacher**