



11 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

## **Half day INSET closure Monday 21 February**

Earlier this year Ofqual promised guidance for all subjects regarding modifications that would be made to the specification and the style/range of questions to both the GCSE/GCE public exams.

On Monday 7 February all the changes were put in the public domain for all interested parties to access. Through the course of this week our Heads of Department and teaching staff have been reviewing this information and in some cases determining what the guidance will mean in practice. This is obviously new guidance that has to be clearly understood before it can be acted on.

Students have naturally been curious and have wanted to review the guidance as well to get a proactive head start on their revision. The information and guidance is fairly clear in some subjects but it requires more attention in other subjects. All subjects have already prepared the papers for Year 11 mock exams which were due to start on our return after the half term break. The publication of the changes should have brought immediate clarity and reassurance to all stakeholders. However the accessibility of aspects of the lengthy documents means that there is a possibility for misinterpretation or omission of some information.

Therefore, on Monday 21 February the school will close for a half day INSET with all students leaving the school site from 12pm. Some subjects to be assessed on that day would not have met the new requirements in terms of the removal of topics from some exams whose questions have already been prepared. Their papers need to be revised.

The new curriculum/specification requirements will be reviewed by departments on Monday 21 February with a view to stripping them down to the essentials with some additional guidance offered where necessary.

This half day will give our subject specialists the opportunity to focus on ensuring that what we present to students is accessible, understandable and not open to misinterpretation. All subjects will prepare specific information to go into a student guide. I will update you on timings for the issuing of guidance as soon as it is possible to do so.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Mr M. Duffy

Deputy Headteacher