



## HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

RGT/JDN

26 February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

You will have received a letter regarding the return to school arrangements in the week commencing 8 March. I would now like to outline our plans for awarding GCSE and A 'level grades. We have been planning for this in the background since the announcement that external examinations would not take place this year, and I am pleased to report that our plans have been re-iterated by the recent announcement by the government; students will receive centre assessed grades (CAGs). The protocol for awarding these CAGs has been left to each school across the country to decide, with trust put in each and every teacher to use a range of evidence. Over the past 6 weeks the Senior Team have been working with subject leaders to devise a robust rationale for all subjects at both GCSE and A 'level to arrive at, and issue, students with a grade that represents their ability, potential and work ethic throughout their time at Heckmondwike Grammar School. We have taken the time and due diligence to ensure that we are not only using a wide range of evidence from across the course but we are maintaining parity across all subject areas to ensure fairness for all students. Exactly how each subject will weight different aspects of their course is still being determined and, as you will appreciate, there is a huge amount of evidence to consider and this may be fine-tuned as we progress through the process. No student will be disadvantaged due to any personal circumstance and all students will be considered on a case-by-case basis. In short, we have ensured that every grade issued to every student will be decided upon by a robust and fair system.

With this in mind, I writing to inform you that all subjects (with the exception of Art where the portfolio is used) will have a final assessment after Easter. These assessments will be used, along with a wide range of supporting evidence to help teachers issue a grade for each student. All assessments will be conducted under exam conditions and will be held in the Sports Hall (with a few exceptions). These assessments will begin on Monday 26 April and continue to Wednesday 19 May. However, we expect all written examinations, i.e. those in the hall to be completed by 11 May with the remaining time used for practical examinations in subjects such as Food Technology and Drama. There will be no examinations on 12 & 13 May. These assessments will be synoptic, which means that students may be assessed on all of their course content. However, we recognise that this may be a large undertaking so staff will ensure that students are given areas of study that are more likely to appear in the assessments so students can focus their revision and study over the coming weeks. A full, and detailed, final assessment timetable will be issued in due course.

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It is usual for students to be offered study leave before and during external examinations occur. However, given the considerable amount of time that students have spent in isolation over the past year we feel that under these unique circumstances students would benefit from working in school surrounded by their peers and having direct access to staff, so there are no plans to offer study leave at this point. All students will attend school as normal until their final assessment. We are hoping to have some kind of final, socially distanced and appropriate "leaving event" for each year group, and further details of this will be communicated later.

So, this is the plan for our Year 11 & 13 students. We are looking forward to welcoming everybody back very soon and whilst the final few weeks are going to be quite "full on", the main message I want to send to our leavers is not to be anxious about this time - use it to your advantage and benefit. You have worked hard up to this point, keep doing what you have been doing, ask your teachers for help where you need it or when you don't understand and of course, continue to complete all your set work. Above all, enjoy the last few weeks of your time at HGS, the world has been through a very difficult period and there is now light at the end of the tunnel as long as we all remain safe and follow the guidance.

Yours faithfully,



Richard Tipler

Deputy Headteacher