

St Augustine's C.E. High School & Sixth Form

Part of the St Augustine's Federated Schools

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Head of Federation: Mr Eugene Moriarty BA (QTS) MA



8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 11 students,

I am writing to provide you with some additional information following the most recent government announcements.

Exams

On Wednesday 6th January Gavin Williamson confirmed that "GCSE exams will not go ahead this summer". He then confirmed that he wishes to use a "form of teacher-assessed grades, with training and support provided to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently."

What is a form of teacher assessed grade?

We do not yet know exactly what a teacher assessed grade will be. The Department of Education has said that it will be consulting with exam boards and teachers over the next three weeks to decide what a 'teacher assessed grade' will look like. As such, our message to students is the same as that given by Ofqual: **please continue to engage as fully as you can in your education.**

Please ensure and encourage your son/daughter to turn up to online lessons where possible, complete the lessons and home learning set on Satchel One (Show My Homework) and complete their work to the best of their ability. For now, we must assume that everything your son/daughter has already done, what they will be doing now, and the work they will complete when they return back to school will contribute to their final assessed grade.

Vocational qualifications

January/February Exams

We have decided to keep the January/February exam series for all students wishing to sit their exam. However, the Department for Education stated on January 6th that no student "will be disadvantaged if they can't take their exam or assessment, or decide they don't want to". **Please discuss the issues carefully with your child so that you make the decision that you feel is best.**

Assessment of vocational qualifications

We are still awaiting guidance and clarity on how these will be assessed. I will be in touch as soon as we receive any further communication from the government. However, please note that my current advice would be to continue working on any coursework to ensure it is the best grade possible.

Mock Exam Results and 6th Form Applications

Your child will be emailed their Mock Exam Results directly over the next week. We will also be sending to you a copy of their results with their January update and their target grades. This

report will be a capture of where students are at the moment **and is not their final teacher assessed grade**. Students have already been told that we are still accepting 6th Form Applications and to complete these as soon as possible.

What does all of this mean for your son/daughter over the next few weeks?

The next few weeks are not going to be straightforward and we are very aware of the difficulties and challenges that you and your child face. There are a lot of unknowns still at the moment and when we have further guidance, we will continue to communicate this with you. Your child needs to continue to engage with their education.

Remote learning

Following the latest government announcement, it is clear that again, this is no ordinary term and we are once again learning from home. You will be receiving a separate letter outlining our remote learning programme for Year 11, including a timetable of live lessons and home learning. For further information and support on how to use Microsoft Teams, please see the Covid-19 Tab on our school website: <https://www.stahigh.org/covid-19/remote-education/>

If you have any further questions at all, please do not hesitate to get in touch with myself or the Year 11 Team - Ms S Andrews (sandrews@stahigh.org) or Ms S Toone (stoone@stahigh.org).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R Kelly', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ms R Kelly

Deputy Headteacher