



HEANOR GATE SCIENCE COLLEGE

“Develop all learners to achieve their full potential”
“Create a culture of aspiration”

Principal: **Mr S Huntington**



5 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As promised in our communication last week, we wanted to get in touch and keep you all in the loop with our plans for the return of Year 11 and 13, and also our position on the grading and awarding of centre assessments.

As you will all be aware, the formal examination series in the summer has been cancelled and the DFE & Ofqual have decided that schools will use a variety of evidence sources to award all students with centre assessed grades for their programmes of study.

Firstly we want to reassure you that, due to our robust and accurate tracking systems, we are confident that we can securely predict your child the grade they “were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned”. We have extremely strong internal monitoring systems and have a good track record of accurately predicting grades at both GCSE, GCE and vocational levels. The grades that students will be awarded will be reflective of their academic achievements throughout the last two years and will be fair and accurate, therefore ensuring that students are not disadvantaged by the cancellation of examinations.

There has been much speculation in the press around the ‘mock exams’ or assessments that will be used to formulate centre assessed grades. Whilst we will be scheduling some formal internal assessments (details below), these will be one of the pieces of evidence used to arrive at fair and robust judgement about each individual grade. The deadline for submitting centre assessed grades to the awarding bodies is 18 June, meaning all individual’s efforts up until that point will be taken into account so it is essential that students continue to work hard on all of their courses.

In order to determine the centre assessed grade we will be taking the following into account:

- Class performance over the duration of the course, up to and including the period of time between now and 18 June
- Class assessments collated throughout the whole duration of the course
- Formal assessments which will be standardised and moderated at trust level
- Previous mock or formally assessed papers
- Any NEA (coursework elements) completed throughout the period of the course

Formal assessment schedule:

A huge benefit of working with a multi academy trust of 8 secondary schools means that we have the opportunity to partake in the robust moderation of assessments. Therefore all students in Year 11 and Year 13 will take part in a structured assessment window where papers have been quality assured for fairness and marking can be moderated for accuracy.

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Further details of these assessment windows will be shared in due course, but the dates will be as follows:

- Year 11 - w/c 26 April 2021
- Year 13 - w/c 19 April 2021

Whilst these dates may appear quite early in light of the government CAG submission date, they afford staff plenty of time to mark and moderate papers but also students the opportunity to reflect on performance in these papers and consider whether sitting any further assessments may provide better evidence of any performance which may have been uncharacteristic during these windows.

To support everyone's understanding of this area we have put together a short video briefing: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Qlnx2mztUAiXu54BXRgnKrrNCSaMfScO/view?usp=sharing>

We appreciate that this is a unique situation and students will be anxious however, we will do our very best to ensure that students receive the grades they deserve. If you have any questions or concerns, then please contact the relevant member of staff below:

Year 11 queries Mr Hudson (Vice Principal - Y11 Progress) - dhudson@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk
Year 13 queries Mr Graham (Head of Sixth Form) - rgraham@heanorgate.derbyshire.sch.uk

We look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday and thank you all in advance for support.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Huntington
Executive Principal



Mr M Jones
Senior Vice Principal