

17 November 2020

Dear parents, carers and students,

Year 13 Pre-Public Examinations Arrangements

We are writing to update you on the Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs, also known as “mocks”) which were planned to run from Thursday 7 January to Wednesday 20 January 2021.

In light of the recent announcement in Wales, cancelling the summer 2021 A Level examinations and replacing them with assessments set and marked externally but delivered under teacher supervision in classroom, and after consulting with our Heads of Department and Senior Leadership Group, we have decided to postpone the planned PPEs.

Our rationale for taking this decision is that until we have further official confirmation on how the changes in Wales will affect examinations in England, we would rather students spend time in lessons studying and acquiring the knowledge and skills they need to be successful in the subjects they are learning. In addition, Ofqual, the body responsible for overseeing the examination process in England, will be reporting to the government in the coming weeks their proposals for next year’s public examinations and how they can be implemented. We would like to avoid being in a situation whereby the students spend two weeks off timetable in early January 2021 sitting examination papers, only to see a change in format and/or to then be told that all schools need to organise a series of PPEs in the spring, as will be the case in Wales, and therefore miss a further fortnight of lessons.

Given the continued level of uncertainty and a rapidly evolving situation, we are very mindful of the wellbeing of our students and would therefore, like to ensure that only the most relevant and necessary interruptions of learning take place.

However, we would like to emphasise that it is important for the students to remain focused on their learning and get into the good habit of undertaking ongoing revision alongside acquiring new knowledge. Teachers will carry on assessing their students in lessons on a regular basis using exam style questions, and where possible in exam conditions, not only to check on understanding and identifying learning gaps, confirm progress and grades, but also to ensure students keep on practising exam skills in preparation for future PPEs and summer examinations.

You will receive a report on your child’s progress, performance and current learning gaps and priorities for improvement in every subject studied on 11 December 2020, 12 February 2021 and 28 May 2021.

Should you have any concerns regarding your child’s progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teachers, the relevant Heads of Department or the Head of Year, Mrs Paddington.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S Clark
Deputy Headteacher



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Deputy Headteacher

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