



March 20 2021

Dear Year 11 and 13 Students and Families,

As we fast approach the end of term, I want to provide some information at what is a very worrying time for all of us.

### **Remote Learning**

First of all, can I say how impressed teachers are with how students are tackling work in lockdown. It is more important than ever that they continue to engage with their studies. **If you do not have internet access at home, please don't be reluctant to let us know; we should be able to help.**

Teachers will be giving further information over the next few days about what students will need to do over Easter. We will not be bombarding them and they will be given targeted advice about what to focus their energies on. They must also plan for relaxation time, too.

Some parents have asked why we are not delivering live lessons. After each lockdown we asked for parental feedback and our policy of recording lessons is based on the responses we received, namely that in homes that are sharing devices, this enables everyone to access lessons at times that suit the family.

### **Returning to School after Lockdown**

We very much hope that we will return to school after Easter and, between 12<sup>th</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup> May, teachers are planning to do two more assessments with students. Advance notice will be given of when assessments will take place.

### **How Will Grades Be Awarded This Summer?**

Grades for all qualifications, will be awarded on the basis of **demonstrated attainment**. When forming their judgements, teachers will be able to use a range of evidence including mock exams, coursework, questions taken from exam board past papers and classroom assessments. Further assessments will take place in the summer term to generate up-to-date evidence that can be used. The simplified process will look as follows:

- Teachers will assess students using question papers and mark schemes provided by the examination boards and linked to national standards.
- Departments will formulate their grades using a range of evidence. The process used to generate the grades will be quality assured by the school.
- This internal quality assurance process will have to be signed off by the exam board to ensure it is rigorous and in line with national standards.
- Our school results will be quality assured externally by the exam boards, which may include random sampling of evidence.
- If the exam boards are confident in our submitted results, then they will award students their final grades.

**What about Loss of Learning/Impact of Covid?**

Teachers will assess students on what they have been taught. However, grades can only be submitted on the basis of the evidence we have of students' performance, even if that evidence covers less of the course than usual. Students who would usually have extra time, a reader or a scribe, will benefit from the same arrangements in the teacher assessments over the next half term.

**Will Grades be Different across Different Schools?**

No. All five schools are working closely together. The standard against which teachers will be assessing students is set nationally by the exam boards. This is the standard that will be used during external quality assurance to ensure consistency and fairness across the island.

**Is there an Appeals Process?**

If students do not think that their results are accurate, they will have the right to appeal. The grade that students achieve will start with their teacher's assessment of their performance across a range of evidence. This is against a nationally-defined standard, not the teacher's own opinion. This assessment is then subject to both internal and external quality assurance before the final grade is awarded by the exam body, as usual.

**These Are Difficult Times**

For Year 11, Academic Tutoring on March 25<sup>th</sup> will not take place. Tutors will continue to be in touch with students next week. Over Easter, there are a range of emotional support services available (posted on our Facebook and web pages). Please reach out for help if you are struggling.

Finally, I would like to thank our parents and carers because your support and encouragement are hugely important to our young people. Remote learning may be the 'new normal', but it is most definitely not what any of us want to be doing and the sooner we are able to return to classrooms, the happier we all will be.

With very best wishes to you,

Adrienne Burnett,  
Head Teacher