



17 March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am writing to provide information regarding the return to school of pupils in Years 12, 13 and 14 on Monday 22nd March. The School continues to follow the most recent guidance from the Department of Education regarding COVID-19 safety measures and this can be accessed as usual in the Parent E-Booklet. In the interests of everyone, I would very much appreciate your support in complying with these measures as far as possible.

Your daughters have had an extremely challenging few months and I would like to commend them for continuing to progress their learning remotely. I have been greatly inspired by the adaptability and resilience that they have shown and by their determination to find the positive in the face of their difficulties. It is so encouraging to know that, with such young people in our society, our future will be in safe hands.

With teachers soon to begin the process of setting Centre Determined Grades at GCSE, AS and A-level, pupils will no doubt be wondering what lies ahead for them. Information from CCEA (the Northern Ireland examining authority) and the Department of Education regarding the process has already been sent to parents and has also been placed in the Parent E-Booklet.

Teachers have gathered evidence of performance in a variety of forms from their pupils as they have covered their GCSE, AS and A-level courses, but many subjects will wish to carry out some further assessment before finalising the Centre Determined Grades for their pupils.

When the girls return to school on Monday 22nd March, the following will happen:

- During the week beginning 22nd March, teachers will inform their pupils whether or not further assessments will take place in their subject.
- If further assessment is going to take place in their subject, they will tell the girls which area/aspect of the course the assessment will cover, when the assessment will take place (after the Easter break) and how long the assessment will last.
- Teachers will then devote the remaining weeks to helping the girls prepare for the assessment and the girls may also wish to make use of part of the Easter holiday.
- Further assessments will not be the sole determinant of the Centre Assessed Grades but will be considered along with other available evidence for each pupil.

In this way, pupils will be supported so that they will have the opportunity to demonstrate their potential in the further assessments.

The staff and I look forward to seeing your daughters back in class on 22nd March.

Thank you for your continuing support.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W.E. Thompson'.

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