

18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Y11 & Y13 Students,

Cc Y11 & 13 Parents & Carers

I wrote to you on the 4<sup>th</sup> January to encourage you to **keep going with your education and not be overly disappointed by the decision to replace your planned exams with a new system**. Since then, I have been very impressed by the resilience and commitment you have shown.

We now have some more details on the proposed new system. Please note these plans are not finalised and could change, but I know you will want this information without delay. The key points to note are:

- 1) Teachers will decide your grades in June based on **the standard you are performing at** in each of your subjects at that time.
- 2) They will use a **range of evidence** to make this decision, including;
  - a. Assessments you will take in May and early June here at school. They will not be a full series of exams, but instead a mixture of internal, “exam style” papers we design, and external papers produced for schools by exam boards. You will not be tested on topics we haven’t been able to teach due to lockdowns and if you have to isolate on the day of a test we can make alternative arrangements.
  - b. Other evidence that could be useful – for example any coursework or NEAs you have been able to complete, mock exams you have taken in the past, other work you complete in class once school is back, or even the work you are doing now during lockdown. As a general rule, later evidence will carry more weight, as the more you move through your course the more your performance should improve.
- 3) The grades teachers set will be subject to extensive internal and external moderation. This will involve moderators looking at the evidence teachers have used and confirming the marking. In an outstanding school like KAA, we have good capacity and expertise that will support this process – for example, many of our teachers also are trained examiners and mark real GCSE and A Level papers in a normal year. Exams boards will make sure there is consistency between schools.
- 4) Teachers cannot talk to you about your grades. To do so would constitute exam malpractice and **you must not ask them**. If you did feel the grade you eventually receive on results day (which may now be in July not August) was unfair, you will be able appeal it, just like you can request a remark in a normal year.

Your teachers and Heads of Departments will provide further details to you in the coming weeks, as and when exam boards confirm them. For now, **please be patient and focus on your normal lessons**. If you worry too much about the precise details of the new plans, then ironically it may distract you from your learning and lead to a lower eventual grade. **I can promise you that teachers will ensure you are fully supported and treated fairly. All you need to do is show up to every lesson, complete every piece of work and try your best.**

Anyone interested can read the government’s full consultation proposals [here](#).

With best wishes,



**David Benson**  
Principal