



The Priory School

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Dear Year 11 Students, Parents and carers,

Firstly, congratulations to Year 11 on completing your remote assessments; we are pleased that the significant preparation you had undertaken for the mock examinations could be used, albeit in a slightly different way.

I am sure you are aware that Ofqual, the body which regulates examinations and assessments, has recently undergone a period of consultation about how GCSE and A Level grades should be awarded this year, with the expectation that grades will be entirely based on teacher assessment. We wrote to you about this earlier in the term to share the link to the proposals and the online consultation, as well as a shorter consultation of our own; thank you to those of you who completed either or both. There are still several considerations, such as whether exam boards will provide standardised assessment papers for students to take in the Summer term, how these will be marked and what further evidence base schools can draw upon to award students' grades.

Whilst we await the results of this consultation we are continuing to prepare Year 11 students for further assessment and gathering as much evidence as we can to ensure a fair and rigorous process when determining grades. We have been informed that there will be external checks to ensure schools are awarding grades fairly and equitably, which will include sampling of student work.

Therefore, it is extremely important that any work which we might consider as part of a portfolio of evidence for the student is their own work for which they have not accessed any unauthorised assistance. The remote assessments were well planned and well organised, and we know that the majority of students did not use any unauthorised materials or receive any extra help other than that which they were entitled to. However, we must be sure that students' work is their own as, if external checks by the exam boards reveal any form of cheating, this could result in students being disapplied from one or more subjects or alteration of their grade. We have, unfortunately, uncovered very rare instances where students have accessed unauthorised materials during the remote assessments and will therefore not be able to use assessments where this is the case towards a Centre Assessed Grade.

In order to be able to consider the remote assessment grades as part of the overall portfolio of evidence (should the consultation decree that we can do so), we require all students to complete the declaration form via this link, by Friday 12th February.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=X4pRTR73X0uDdSbvXs_1sS-JTdn5WN9Is712WYPZaIJUOTJPSky3UThBS0szWTVSMDQxMvVZSVJERi4u

There will not be any sanctions for students who declare that they have received unauthorised assistance, but we will need to discuss with them the extent to which we can use their remote assessments as evidence towards their GCSE grade.

Once we have further information about the outcome of Ofqual's consultation we will communicate this with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Knight', written in a cursive style.

Mrs C Knight
Deputy Headteacher