



Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> April 2026

**Dear Year 11 Parents and Pupils,**

**RE: Year 11 Update**

Following the recent announcement regarding the cancellation of this year's GCSE examinations, I would like to invite you to an online meeting with the Secondary Leadership Team on Thursday 9 April at 2.30pm.

We know this news has understandably raised many questions and concerns for Year 11 pupils and their families. The purpose of this meeting is to speak with you directly, explain clearly what we know so far from the examination boards, and outline how the school will support pupils through the next stage of this process.

During the meeting we will discuss:

- what has been confirmed so far regarding the cancellation of GCSE examinations
- how pupil grades are expected to be determined this year
- how the school will gather the evidence required to support those grades
- what the coming weeks will look like for Year 11 pupils
- how we will ensure every pupil has the opportunity to demonstrate their progress

The meeting will be led by myself as Head of Secondary, together with members of the Secondary Leadership Team who are overseeing this work. Miss Millie Daintree, our Key Stage 4 Leader, will join the meeting, along with Mr Nat Lively, our Examinations Officer, who is coordinating the guidance we are receiving from the examination boards. Members of the wider Secondary Leadership Team will also be present to support the discussion and respond to questions.

To help us manage the meeting effectively, we will be using a Teams webinar format, which allows parents to register in advance and submit questions during the session.

Please register for the meeting using the link below:

<https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/6edc4670-a4a6-4f26-993a-c3d9e3dfc4f5@38992642-d230-4289-b9a5-8513616443cb>

When registering, you will be asked to provide your name, email address and your child's name.

During the meeting:



- chat will be disabled to keep the session focused
- parents will be able to submit questions through the Q&A feature
- the leadership team will respond to as many questions as possible during the session

Many families will remember that schools navigated a similar situation when public examinations were cancelled during the global pandemic. At that time, I led a Year 11 cohort of more than 340 pupils through the alternative grading process, working closely with examination boards to ensure that pupils received fair and accurate outcomes. We will approach this situation with the same level of care, clarity and professional oversight.

Our priority as a school is straightforward: to ensure that every Year 11 pupil is supported, well informed and given every possible opportunity to achieve the grades they are capable of. The Secondary Leadership Team is already working closely with subject leaders and teachers to ensure that the approach we take is fair, structured and transparent.

Most importantly, I want to reassure pupils and parents that Year 11 are not navigating this situation alone. Your teachers know you well, and we will guide you carefully through the process that will now replace the traditional examination series.

We look forward to speaking with you on Thursday.

Warm regards,

**Samantha Reynolds**

Head of Secondary