

11 January 2021

Dear Year 11 & 13 Students

Summer Exams 2021

The Prime Minister announced last week that GCSE and A Level exams will not take place this summer in the normal way. In the coming weeks we will get details of what will replace them, but it seems reasonable to expect students will receive grades based on a similar system to 2020. This involved teachers assessing performance using class and homework, coursework, PPE results and other evidence.

I am aware of the disappointment and confusion this news will bring. The government had consistently told students, parents and teachers that exams would happen this year, and we all planned on that basis. However, I hope that the initial shock has worn off and I would urge you all to consider these three points, as they should provide some reassurance:

1. Your hard work will still be recognised. None of the effort you have shown so far, and will continue to show in the coming months, will be wasted. On the contrary, the new system will make sure this is fully reflected in your final grade.

2. Your eventual results will be indistinguishable from real exams. In the long run, it won't matter how your grades will be awarded. You will still be able to progress to Sixth Form and University in the normal way. The value of your GCSE and A Level qualifications is not being altered, only the way they are administered. None of your ambitions for the future will be affected by this decision.

3. The new system will be fair and balanced. Grades will be awarded based on objective evidence. Any grades that your teachers set will be moderated carefully, to ensure they are consistent within and between schools. If any parent or student were to be disappointed with their eventual grade, we expect there to be a mechanism to appeal and take a follow-up exam in the autumn, just as there was last time.

I know it is asking a lot of you all, on top of everything you have been through already, but you must take these points on board and keep going. Your teachers were aware of this possibility and will guide and support you through the remainder of this year. For now, please make sure that you attend every lesson on Google Classroom and I would urge you to play an active part in the live aspect of the lesson. Every piece of work you complete will still make a difference.

With very best wishes.

Yours faithfully



Mr R Pett
Headteacher

www.wellingschool-tkat.org

Headteacher:
Mr R Pett BA Hons, MA, NPQH

Welling School
Elsa Road, Welling
Kent, DA16 1LB

Tel: 020 8304 8531
Fax: 020 8301 6414
Email: admin@wellingschool-tkat.org

