Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you and your families are well.

The Prime Minister announced last night that GCSE and A Level exams will not take place this Summer in the normal way. We do not yet have further details of how students will be assessed, though it is possible that students will receive grades based on a similar system to 2020. This involved teachers assessing performance using class and homework, coursework, mock exam results and other evidence.

We know that students may feel concerned and have many questions about this. We have spoken to students today with the following message:

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 will not matter that your grades came via this system. You will still be able to progress to Sixth Form and University in the normal way. The value of your GCSE, Ctech 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 students were to be disappointed with their eventual grade, we expect there to be a mechanism to appeal and take follow-up exams in the Autumn, just as there was last time.

We know that many students may feel worried and even disappointed that exams are not going to take place this year. We are reassuring students that it is normal to feel this way, but that they will still receive their full range of qualifications.

We will make sure that our students are not disadvantaged by this, and will continue to support students at every stage including progression to sixth form, university or apprenticeships.

We are asking all students to ensure that they attend all remote lessons, and remain engaged and working hard. This will be essential in continuing to teach and assess students through their ongoing GCSE, A level and Ctech courses.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Alice Ward
Associate Headteacher