

Dear Parents,

### November assessment update

With the autumn term fully underway, students are working hard leading up to the winter mock exams and formative assessments. The dates of these assessments are as follows:

Year 10 formative assessments:	Week beginning 3 <sup>rd</sup> December
Year 11 summative Mock exams - French/Art subjects	Week beginning 3 <sup>rd</sup> December
Year 11 summative Mock exams -all other subjects	Week beginning 9 <sup>th</sup> January
Year 12 formative assessments:	Week beginning 3 <sup>rd</sup> December
Year 13 summative mock exams:	Week beginning 3 <sup>rd</sup> December

There are a small number of real exams taking place this winter:

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 media  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Year 11 Hospitality  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January – Year 11 The Music Industry  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January - Year 11 Travel & Tourism  
Friday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Year 13 Health & Social  
15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> January – Year 13 Applied science

Formative assessments are undertaken by year 10 and 12 students who are just starting their courses, as previously communicated in the last assessment update letter. They report percentage scores and assess how much of the knowledge from the current and last topic is secure. This supports our mastery curriculum and ensures students have a clear understanding of their performance in each subject area. In February 2019, once students have covered a significant amount of GCSE/A-level content, indicative GCSE/A-level grades will be reported.

Year 11 and 13 students, who have covered a significant amount of course content, will sit summative assessments (mock exams) so that an indicative GCSE/A-level grade can be generated. This will reflect their current position in each subject. Students will sit the some or all of the full GCSE/A-level papers in each subject. Topics will be mixed in these papers to include content covered content since the start of the course. The questions are designed to reflect the rigour and challenge of the actual exam papers.

The January 2019 year 11 mock exams will be even more challenging than the end of year 10 assessments that this cohort sat in summer 2018. Not only will the mock exams cover the whole of year 10 and 11 content but the 2018 GCSE grade boundaries will be used which, in many subjects were higher than the previous academic year. Over the Christmas break it is essential that students have a good rest and re-charge. This needs to be balanced with effective revision to ensure they

succeed in each of their subject areas. Teachers will supply revision resources for students to complete over the Christmas break. Additional resources can be found on the college website or purchased through parent mail, these include knowledge organisers, revision guides and packs of practice papers. Please check with your child if they have everything they need to prepare fully for their mock exams.

We appreciate your continued support and wish your child every success in their exams and assessments.

Jenny Byrne  
Principal

Donna Thornton  
Data and Assessment Strategic Leader