



26 February 2021

Dear Year 13

Firstly, I would like to acknowledge how impressed I have continued to be with your attitude and focus during this period. Speaking for myself, I have certainly found some days, weeks and even longer periods really challenging. However, any interaction I have had with any of you, be that through conversations with those on site, discussions with students remotely or through the comments on the daily check ins, I can honestly say they have been the highlights of those days. Thank you #teamnailsea

You are a group of students, like no other in History, with two consecutive exam based years interrupted against the backdrop of a global pandemic – certainly something to tell the grandchildren about. The disruption you have experienced, though, is not just about a change to being in school and learning, but includes not being able to see family and friends and possible worries about health and employment. It has been tough. YOU have been tremendous.

As you are probably aware, Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education announced the decisions on how GCSE, AS and A level grades would be determined this summer yesterday afternoon. I know that the 'not knowing' would have made you feel anxious, but I hope this letter provides you with assurance and some more certainty.

From a student point of view there is more clarity. We know the following:

- There will be no externally set GCSE and A Level exams this summer (something we knew already)
- The grades will be based on your teachers' assessments of the standards you are working at.
- You can be assured that we will be using a range of evidence to inform our assessments so grades will never be based on a single result in a mock exam or one in class assessment.
- On your return to school (see further details in the letter sent to parents today) we will be building in time for your teachers to calendar the completion of key pieces of work, completed in class, that will help in this assessment process. As we do not feel it is appropriate, you will NOT be returning to another period of mock exams.
- When back in the classroom we will be celebrating what you KNOW and working with you to get where we need to be, before the calendared assessed pieces. It will be a #teamnailsea effort.
- Schools are requested to submit all grades to exam boards by 18th June 2021. At this stage students and parents cannot be told the grades.
- Following grade submission the exam boards will choose a sample of schools and look at the evidence and procedures that have been used to ensure grades have been awarded fairly.

- We don't yet know the leaving date for students in the summer term and this will be passed on to you when we do know.
- Exam results will be published (and collected from school) on:
Tuesday 10th August – A Level Results
Thursday 12th August – GCSE Results
- There will be an appeals system for any student who believes their grade is not fairly awarded.

Finally.....

School staff have much to work on in the next week or so, confirming the procedures to be put in place. As soon as I have further details, I will let you know. Exam years are always pressured and this year, as I have described, is more difficult than most, but you have 'got this'.

Remember

- KEEP WORKING HARD
- KEEP SUBMITTING WORK
- KEEP ENGAGING IN LESSONS
- ASK FOR HELP, WHEN YOU NEED IT
- The exam results you achieve will be a fair reflection of your performance across the course, not just one exam on one single day.

I know this has been a lot to read, but I hope this has eased any concerns you may have had. If you have any worries or concerns please remember to contact us here at school.

I genuinely can't wait to see you all again in the school building. In the meantime please take care and be kind.

See you soon

Yours faithfully



Mrs Dee Elliott
Head teacher