



6 January 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians, Upper Five and Upper Sixth students,

Following the announcement in the UK about GCSE and A-level examinations, I would like to take this opportunity to keep you apprised of the current situation regarding this summer's GCSE and A-level examinations, and to reinforce the message Mr Barnes gave in assembly to all students yesterday.

For the small number of students who have their scheduled Maths iGCSE papers this week and next, these examinations will go ahead as planned and students will be awarded grades as normal.

In common with all schools in these challenging times, we will respond to the changes – both those already announced and those still to come – whilst keeping the education and well-being of our students as our top priorities.

In terms of the imminent mock examinations, one key point is that the final grades that were awarded last year were not determined by any one piece of evidence and were holistic in nature. When it comes to the final grade that is awarded, students and teachers will have a very good idea of what that grade is likely to be in advance of sitting the final examination and this is the grade that is put forwarded when we are asked for a Centre Assessed Grade. We do not expect that the grades that students obtain in their mocks always translate directly into a final GCSE grade; they are one piece of evidence that is used in conjunction with other work and the teacher's professional judgement.

I am keen that we avoid any situation where we launch an idea without sufficient information and/or planning to be confident that it makes sense.

Advice received today from Cambridge International is that their iGCSE examination series will take place and, as such, it is likely that formal iGCSEs may still be sat this year in the summer. We will consult with colleagues, other examination boards, Elizabeth College for A-level and be measured in our approach. Fortunately, we are in a unique position of being able to continue with the syllabuses and to maintain normality in College, with the prior knowledge of knowing that we can (and will) develop a structure that works. In that respect, we are unique on the island to be able to continue business as normal.

Our intention is to approach things calmly and with a focus on achieving the best outcomes. We managed this with the pressure of the first lockdown and I am optimistic that this can be done again, but with the welcome addition of a little more thinking time.

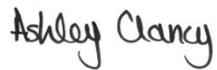
We understand the uncertainty that is felt and the challenges of maintaining motivation, yet our students are so much more than examination results and the education that we provide seeks to support our young

people to be lifelong learners and to be able to cope with pressure, to be resilient, to make the best of a situation and to do what is right, come what may.

Please reassure your children and help them to remain calm, focussed and assured that we have their best interests at the heart of all our decisions, which will be shared as soon as is feasible.

We thank you for your understanding in these ongoing challenging times.

Yours sincerely



Ashley Clancy
Principal