



20 January 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Upper Sixth students

### **A-level consultation**

We wanted to provide a further update and give you the opportunity to respond to the consultation that is currently underway in respect of the alternative arrangements to replace the cancelled summer A-level examinations.

We are still waiting for guidance about the processes that the examination boards will ask us to carry out to ensure that we are able to achieve the fairest grades for our students. We will share with you any information we receive and continue to keep you updated with our thinking, including any decisions which are made for us, or we make for the students. As part of this, the **link below will take you to a survey which sets out the proposals for alternative arrangements** and asks for opinions from a range of stakeholders, including students and parents, **by 29 January 2021:**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021/how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021-html>

Our message to students remains consistent and we will continue with our normal teaching and assessments, including mock examinations, for the foreseeable future. Please reinforce the message that the mocks are only one piece of evidence that may be used, in conjunction with other work. Our understanding of student progress and teachers' professional judgements is also an important part of our internal scrutiny and is considered when grades are reviewed and ratified internally, before being submitted by the College to the relevant examination board.

We encourage students to continue to do their best, no more and no less, and we will continue to support students to achieve all they are capable of. Please do contact Miss Clements, Head of Sixth Form, if there is anything you wish to discuss. I would ask you to continue to keep her and her team apprised of any changes of circumstances, as we know you already do, and as we continue to support students during their mocks and throughout this last period of their A-level studies.

Yours sincerely

*Howard Barnes*

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**Director of Studies**