

Our Ref: WAL/jc

27<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: Year 13 Trial Examinations**

At the Year 13 Assembly this week, myself and Ms Burns gave students some information about UCAS applications but also on our provisional plans in relation to Year 13 Trial Exams. As you may be aware, Year 13 Trial Examinations were originally scheduled to take place last week (week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> January). Due to the fact that students are currently working from home, and the ongoing consultation regarding this year's grading system, we thought it best to postpone the Trial Examinations until we have a clear picture of what the summer will hold in terms of examinations and assessments.

Though we will not know the full outcome of the consultation on 2021 grades for another 2 weeks or more, we have decided to reschedule Year 13 Trial Examinations for the week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. We feel that the best approach is to plan for this event now rather than waiting an indefinite period to have confirmation of the summer arrangements.

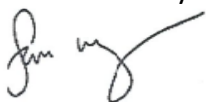
As students are presently working from home, we will plan to hold the Trial Examinations remotely. Full details of the schedule and instructions on how these examinations will be conducted will be shared with students in the next two weeks. In the eventuality that Year 13 students have returned to school by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, we will hold the Trial Examinations in school in a more typical fashion. As we are unlikely to know this until half-term at the earliest, we will be planning for a remote set of examinations.

We want to reassure students that these Trial Examinations should be treated as an opportunity and not something to be anxious about. We will ensure that papers are tailored to reflect the content that has been covered and will adapt them to be suitable for completion remotely. Students may be concerned that any grades that result from these Trial Examinations will be used as evidence of their performance ahead of Teacher Assessments in the summer. Please be assured that there is no set criteria on what evidence must be used to demonstrate a student's performance. As such, it would be at the school's discretion whether to include Trial Examination results as part of that evidence pack. Should a student perform well in the Trial Examinations at a level that reflects their ability then there is a good chance the result would be used as evidence. On the contrary, should a student's performance not be a reflection of their ability, the result may not be used.

We will continue to keep you informed of any changes or developments, and teaching staff will work with students to ensure that they are fully prepared for the Trial Examinations.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Wallinger

Head of Sixth – Westwood Campus