



Plymouth High School for Girls

"For life, not school, we learn"

15th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well. Students in years 11 and 13 continue to impress us with their commitment to their studies and should be commended for their efforts.

It is my intention to keep you up to date with developments as they come out from the DFE and OFQUAL, so here is the first update.

The DFE and OFQUAL are going to be releasing a consultation early next week that will set out the proposals on how students are to be assessed for what would have been the summer 2021 examination series. The Education Secretary is making it clear that students should be assessed based on what they have learnt, rather than against content they have not had a chance to study. There has been agreement that the DFE and OFQUAL will not use an algorithm to set or automatically standardise anyone's grade.

Given the disruption children and young people have faced, it is vital that we maximise the remaining opportunity for them to be taught for as long as possible, so they have every opportunity to catch up. This will enable them to successfully progress to the next stage in their educational journey, whether this is onto A levels, Degree courses or apprenticeships. It is the view of the DFE that the teacher's final judgement on a student's grade ought to be made as late as possible in the academic year, to maximise the remaining teaching time and to ensure students are motivated to remain engaged in education.

This year the DFE is asking teachers to assess their students in a fair and consistent fashion. A breadth of evidence should inform the teachers' judgements; classwork, homework and mock examination outcomes are some of the evidence bases that teachers can draw from.

The DFE is considering exploring the possibility of providing externally set tasks or papers, in order that teachers can draw on this resource to support their assessments of students. Preparation for these assessments will need to be balanced against the need to ensure good enough coverage of the curriculum for all students to support successful progress onto the next stage in their educational journey

All of the above suggests that the approach that we have taken here at PHSG is the right one. We are continuing to deliver lessons and covering the content of the GCSE and A Level courses, we have continued to give feedback on work submitted and, we still have high expectations of engagement in lessons and the completion of the

work set. If the consultation period does result in some form of assessment being put into place for the summer, then your child will be well placed to succeed in them.

As more information comes through from the DFE and OFQUAL I will update you accordingly.

Many thanks for your understanding and patience as we continue to work to provide the best possible experience for everyone in our community

Kind Regards



Miss Donna Roughton
Assistant Headteacher

