

8th January 2021

Dear Parents,

While there has been a further statement by the Education Secretary this week on public exams, it provided very little new information that we are able to pass on. While we know that exams will not take place this summer for GCSEs and A Levels, the method of teacher assessment has not yet been decided and may not be announced in full (following a consultation process) until the end of February. We expect this to include a range of things such test results, mock results and continuous assessment grades.

One subtlety that is relevant to pupils at Barney is that announcements from the UK Government do not cover some of our international qualifications. This includes those administered by the Cambridge Assessment International board (for us, this includes Pre-U Physics, International A Level and AS Level English Language, IGCSE History, IGCSE Computer Science, IGCSE English as a Second Language and IGCSE Design Technology) and Edexcel IGCSEs (which for us includes IGCSE Maths and IGCSE Further Pure Maths). At the time of writing, these boards have stated that they intend for many of these exams to go ahead at their normal times (from late April to the end of June). We are watching developments on this carefully.

Our advice to pupils - and we reiterated this in assembly this week - remains to continue all work as usual: it is so important that they show us their very best in everything they do. This advice aligns closely with that of the head of the exams regulator Ofqual, who has said, this week:

"We know that this is a difficult time for students, their parents and carers, teachers and trainers. Our message to students is this: please continue to engage as fully as you can in your education. That will be online for the majority of students, ... This will put you in the best position, whatever arrangements are made for your qualifications...."

Simon Lebus, Interim Chief Regulator, Ofqual

We still intend to run mock exams for all Year 11 and Upper Sixth pupils when we return physically, as well as further assessments through the summer term as necessary.

We will continue to keep you up to date as information comes in or changes.

With very best wishes,

Dr M.R. Truss
Deputy Head (Academic)

Mrs F.E. Beadnell
Deputy Head (i/c Sixth Form)