



Archway

7 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Update on Examinations

We have now received confirmation that GCSE and A level examinations will now no longer be taking place this summer. This is an extract from the statement from the Secretary of State for Education, Rt Hon Gavin Williamson CBE:

“Another area where we have learned lessons is on exams. Last year, all four nations of the UK found their arrangements for awarding grades did not deliver what they needed, with the impact felt painfully by students and their parents. Although exams are the fairest way we have of assessing what a student knows, the impact of this pandemic now means that it is not possible to have these exams this year. I can confirm that GCSEs and A and AS Level exams will not go ahead this summer. This year we are going to put our trust in teachers rather than algorithms.

The department and Ofqual had already worked up a range of contingency options. While the details will need to be fine-tuned in consultation with Ofqual, the exam boards and teaching representatives, I can confirm now that I wish to use a form of teacher-assessed grades, with training and support provided to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently.”

We are disappointed that this action has been deemed necessary, but understand why the government chose to make this decision. Many of our students are now faced with the reality of a second year of exam disruptions. Our staff will work alongside the students in the coming weeks to give them every chance to gain the grades that they deserve from all their hard work. At this stage it is important to stress that we do not know what we will be asked to use or provide to support Centre Assessed Grades and therefore all students in Years 11, 12 and 13 will need to continue to attend all remote learning sessions, keep working hard and submit as much work as possible to their teachers.

We have yet to receive official confirmation of the plans for BTEC examinations this summer. The BTEC examinations scheduled for tomorrow and next week shall go ahead as planned and we have put in place all measures to ensure that these can take place safely.

Food Provision

We can confirm that food shall still be available at the school canteen next week for those students coming into school. It will be a limited range, but hot food will be available. From next week, Archway School shall be a distribution point for free school meals going out across the county. We shall therefore be able to ensure food boxes are available for those families who qualify for free school meals and we shall be communicating with these families directly about how these can be collected.

Yours faithfully

Kieron Smith
Headteacher