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the opportunity to succeed

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Dear Parent/Carer(s),

Re: Year 13 Pre-Public Exams

Last week the DfE and Ofqual published the contingency plans in the event of a disruption to the examinations next summer. Whilst hopefully this is unlikely, it is really helpful that they have given us a heads up of their plans early on.

As you will know, for the past two years we have had centre assessed grades, but both times they have been assessed through different methods and the proposal for next year is different again. In 2020 teachers were asked to predict the grade they thought the students would have got in exams had they taken them. In 2021 teachers were asked to give a grade from both exam and in-class evidence, a subtle but crucial difference.

This year the contingency plans state that three data points are to be used to calculate a grade and these must have been in examined conditions. Most of these are already planned as part of our usual assessment schedule, but I thought it was worth making you aware. The first of these data points will be the January Pre-Public Exams PPE (mock exams).

The PPE exams will start on **Monday 24th January 2022** and I need to inform you that these are the first of the three formal data points should we be required to submit centre assessed grades. Information regarding each of the subsequent data points will be shared in advance with students and yourself. Students will be aware that for the last two years the PPE exams have been critical for the grades attained, so it is very important that students this year take these exams seriously and try to optimise their grades. Students should already be revising both content and skills across all of their subjects. This revision is critical if your son/daughter is to perform well in their final summer exams.

If your son/daughter leaves their revision until the last minute, this will likely result in underperformance and them feeling overwhelmed by the amount of work they need to complete. Little and often, is an appropriate approach to revision. Students should do regular small bursts of revision, separated by short breaks in order to allow them to organise their thoughts. They must take responsibility for approaching their class teachers, who will be happy to offer advice and support if they need it.

Your son/daughter will receive an exam timetable and handbook outlining the rules around exams and will shortly also receive an assembly on the importance of these exams. If they are concerned about the upcoming exams, I strongly suggest they discuss this with their tutor, who will be happy to help.

It is probably unlikely there will be mass disruption which would lead to all students needing centre assessed grades. However, it is more than possible that individual students could contract Covid, be unable to take exams and therefore rely on centre assessed grades which would include the PPE.

As I mentioned earlier, this information came out last week. However, I thought it was useful to inform you as soon as possible so that we can maximise the PPE grades just in case. I am grateful to Mr Dexter and Mrs Evans who are currently organising the January PPE exams. They will be communicating with you and the year group, providing detail for the exams themselves.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Nick Marshall
Post 16 Learning Manager

