



MARICOURT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday the Government announced the GCSE and A Level exams will not take place in the normal way in Summer 2021. Although there has been no further clarity on this situation, it seems reasonable to expect that students will receive some element of their grades based on a similar system used in 2020. The process last year involved schools assessing performance using a range of evidence including **classwork, homework, coursework (where applicable), milestone assessments and mock exam results**. This year's system may still involve exams in some form and we await further information on this.

I am aware that our students will be feeling a range of emotions following the announcement made yesterday but I wanted to provide some reassurances in these uncertain times;

1. **Students previous achievements will be recognised** – the effort shown and the progress made by our students so far, and which will continue over the coming months, will not be wasted. Progress will be reflected in their final grade, and this is why it is so important that students remain motivated and continue to engage in their learning, which for this half term will be remote. Any students who have not worked at their best because they expected to just do well on the day of the exam still have time to evidence what they are capable of.
2. **Final grades will be no different from grades received if students had taken the real exams** – in the long run, it won't matter that your grades came from this system. If you are in Year 11, you will still be able to progress onto Sixth Form and we are opening our application process for this earlier than planned to help reassure our students. If you are in Year 13, you will still be able to progress onto University, apprenticeships or employment in the same way. The value of your qualifications is not being altered and you should continue to have high ambitions for your future, like we do.
3. **The system used to award final grades will be fair and balanced** – this means grades will be awarded based on objective evidence. All grades will be moderated carefully to ensure they are fair and consistent within and between schools.

Students Facing External Exams in the Coming Days

The situation at the moment is that these exams will go ahead as planned. Therefore, students should prepare for these as normal. You will be informed immediately if there is any change.

In the coming days, we hope to have more clarity on the situation so that we can provide you with clearer guidance, but in the meantime keep working hard. We will continue to guide and support you throughout the remainder of the year as you complete your courses. Remember that your

online lessons and work that you complete this next half term are really important and will still make a difference.

Year 11 and 13 Progress Reviews following the mock examinations will be sent to parents using the MyEd App and email no later than Friday 15th January. Instructions on downloading the MyEd app can be found on the school website (<https://www.maricourt.net/about/parents/myed>). The forthcoming parents' evening scheduled for 14th January will now be delayed until we have more detailed information about how pupils will be assessed. The parents' evening will take place online and we will send you further information and instructions on how to access the software as soon as the date is confirmed.

Stay safe and God bless.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Mangan,

Headteacher.

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