

Our Lady's Catholic College

Learn, live, love together in a caring Catholic community



11th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Year 11 Monitoring, Parents' Evening and 2021 GCSE and Vocational Ofqual Consultation Outcome

As notified yesterday, we intend to upload the latest results of your child's Year 11 monitoring report onto our Parent Portal tomorrow, so you will be able to see how your child is progressing with their remote learning including their engagement with their live lessons as well as their completion of independent work. In view of the current uncertainty of exactly how grades will be determined in the summer, we have taken the decision not to share any mock grades with your child or you at the moment as we do not wish to add any further elements into what an uncertain mix is already. This is since whilst most students will still be working at a similar level as they were before lockdown, there is considerable variation between how students have adapted to remote learning and as such some mock grades will no longer be accurate indicators of current performance. Instead, we will be sharing your child's target grade as usual together with an indication as to whether they are working below, at or above their target grade. This progress judgement is based on their mock result and their overall engagement in remote learning to date.

In terms of the overall GCSE and Vocational picture, Ofqual and the DFE have run a national consultation which concluded on the 29th of January. We are now awaiting the outcomes of this consultation, which should accurately determine how grade decisions for both GCSE and Vocational qualifications will be determined. We have been told that they hope to publish the outcomes of this consultation by the end of this month. Once we have their decisions we will be able to communicate that to you so you can understand how it will affect your child in our context at this most important time. What is clear so far is that all grades will be based on a combination of progress and commitment to studies both before and after lockdown. So as we wait for clarification we must stress that each and every student in Year 11 can positively influence their own grades by fully engaging in their remote learning. A failure to do so will undoubtedly have a detrimental effect on their future grades and subsequent opportunities beyond Year 11.

As you are aware, we have chosen to postpone year 11 parent's evening until we had a clearer picture of how things would unfold over the rest of your child's time in year 11. In line with the hope that we will have the consultation outcome and have had time to interpret it for our context and more importantly how it affects your child we intend to hold a remote **Year 11 Parents Evening using SchoolCloud on Thursday 11th March** where you will be able to meet all your child's subject teachers. We will write to you again straight after half term with the details of the evening.

If you have any further questions regarding any of the above, then please get in touch with me through the school office.

Thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement of your child at this uncertain time.

Yours faithfully,

Des Coyle
Deputy Head