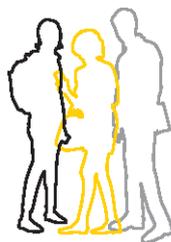


Ref: TZW/tdf



BRIDGNORTH SIXTH FORM

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Students/Parent/Carers,

Re: Mock Examinations & Closure Update

I am writing to update you regarding the current school closures, the latest announcements regarding a move to teacher assessed grades for A-Level and what this will mean for you and your studies going forward.

We are aware that you have invested a significant amount of time and effort in preparing for your mock examinations that were due to be sat in school on your return from the Christmas holidays. We are keen to ensure these efforts are acknowledged and assessed. Therefore, we would like to proceed with a period of assessments which will take place at home, via distance learning.

- **W/C 4th January.** As originally communicated, you will continue to be supported in your revision with Teams sessions focusing on revision/classwork via distance learning.
- **W/C 11th January.** You will complete independent revision and study. This is not supported by teaching staff via Teams and no classwork will be formally set. **During this week, you will receive a paper parcel of your mock examination papers, with a stamped return envelope to use once they have been completed.**
- **W/C 18th January.** You will use this week to complete examination papers. No Yr13 lessons or classwork to be set this week. Spread them out and plan your week carefully.
- **Friday 22nd January.** Papers will need to be parcelled in the stamped addressed envelope and in the post by close of business on this day.
- **W/C 25th January.** You will return to normal distance learning lessons via Teams and continue working through the course.

**N/B** – Students studying BTEC Business Studies will receive one hardcopy paper in the post, this will need to be completed by word processing your answers and e-mailing it to you teacher. The other Business Studies paper will be set and completed electronically through Satchel One.

As these assessments are taking place in your own home, we are anticipating that they will be sat “open book” where reference materials (notes/textbooks) are used. However, we would like you to stick closely to the timings allocated for each paper. When teachers are marking/assessing these papers, they will do so with this format in mind. I appreciate that the format of these assessments is unusual, but the unprecedented circumstances call for an alternative approach given the U-turn decision of the government to move to teacher assessed grades for 2021. These mock examinations will provide a vital insight into how you are performing in relation to the demands of the courses you are studying. It is however vitally important that you remain fully engaged and focused on your studies for the remainder of the academic year to ensure teacher assessments capture your performance holistically.

Continued over .....

I am aware that the announcement that A-level examinations will be cancelled, and teacher assessed grades used for 2021 will come as a shock. The government have consistently told us that examinations will take place and we had planned accordingly to prepare you for this. The situation for BTEC qualifications and equivalents remains more uncertain at the time of writing. We will keep you updated with any developments as they arise and act upon advice to assure that no student will be disadvantaged by these actions. Much of what is happening is beyond your control and I would urge you to consider the following three points:

1. **Your hard work will be recognised.** None of the effort you have shown so far and continue to show for the remainder of the academic year will be wasted. On the contrary, continued effort and progress will be recognised.
2. **Your eventual results will be indistinguishable from the real exams.** In the long run your teacher assessed grades will allow you to progress onto your chosen pathway and work towards your goals. The value of the A-Level is not being altered here, just the method of deciding grades.
3. **The new system will be fair and balanced.** Any grade awarded will be based on objective evidence that has been collected over time. Teacher assessed grades will be internally and externally moderated carefully.

I know there is a lot to take onboard here and time is needed to process this. Further, more detailed guidance on the process of teacher assessed grades will no doubt follow in the fullness of time. In the meantime, I would encourage you to continue the focused hard work on your mock examinations and then re-engage with distance learning on-line from the 25<sup>th</sup> January.

As further guidance emerges and the situation develops, I will communicate further.

Yours Faithfully



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