



THE CORBET SCHOOL

Headteacher Dr Jane Tinker BSc MA(Ed) EdD NPQH

7th January 2021

Dear Year 11 Pupils and Parents / Guardians

I thought it was important to get in touch with you as a year group to provide you with the most up to date information concerning your exams, to outline basic plans for future assessments, and to discuss teaching and learning.

As I am sure you are aware, the Education Secretary has now announced that *'GCSEs will not go ahead this summer'*. Mr Williamson has also stated that *'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.'*

The guidance on 5th January from the Department for Education, indicates that vocational exams can go ahead as scheduled this month, where schools and colleges 'judge it right to do so'. Due to the continued disruption to education, the cancellation of summer exams, and the risks associated with the new variant of the Covid-19 virus, we have taken the decision to cancel the OCR Cambridge National Engineering exam originally scheduled for Tuesday 12th January. The exam board have stated 'If your students do not take our exams this January, there may be an opportunity to take their assessment at a future date. If this is not possible due to arrangements still to be announced for this summer, we'll work with the DfE and Ofqual to make sure they are treated fairly.'

Since GCSEs will not go ahead this summer, we feel it is going to be even more important than normal to gather information from internal assessments throughout the remainder of the school year. As such, when pupils return to school, we will be aiming to run the mock exams as planned. Furthermore, it is likely we will introduce a second set of mock exams in the summer term to gather further information about the pupils' progress. I will provide more information about mock exams once the government give greater detail regarding reopening of schools.

It is absolutely essential that pupils continue to work hard and fully engage with their learning for the remainder of their time at school. This includes attending Zoom lessons and completing work during periods of remote learning. From this point onwards, all pupils must focus on demonstrating to their teachers what they are capable of in their subjects. It is highly likely teachers will be asked by the government to use all evidence available to them when making decisions about centre assessed grades.

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I would like to take this opportunity to remind pupils that they should be applying to colleges or apprenticeships at this time. If anyone requires support or guidance, please contact Mrs Smith via Satchel or email nicola.smith4@corbetschool.net

We are aware that this continues to be an extremely difficult time for all pupils and families; We would like to remind you that we are here to support you as best we can over the coming weeks. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you need any support from us or even just want to talk to a member of staff. We are also able to signpost you to other agencies for support if that is ever necessary.

Yours sincerely

Mr G Simms
Assistant Head – Teaching & Learning

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