



30th March 2020

Dear Year 10 Students, Parents and Carers

As you will be aware, on Friday 20th March the Department for Education announced that all examinations this summer will be cancelled. Associated guidance outlined the broad principles to be applied when awarding grades for students who are affected by this decision. At present this guidance appears to relate to students in Year 11 and 13 and we had hoped to elicit further clarification for students in Year 10 last week. Unfortunately, this has not been forthcoming and so until more information is available, I write to clarify our current understanding and recommendations at St Mary's College.

To be clear, we **do not** yet know whether Year 10 students will qualify for the announced allocation of grades process. It is therefore essential that students engage fully with work set via SMC Study including for subjects that were to be examined this summer. At present there appear to be **three possible scenarios**:

- 1. Students do qualify for the grade allocation process this summer.** If this is the case, then:
 - It is in every student's best interest to ensure that teachers have the strongest possible portfolio of work to choose from if and when they are called upon to justify a projected grade. In addition to attainment, teachers will consider attitude to learning and effort levels, including when working from home.
 - Where students are able to work independently on non-examined assessments, we strongly urge for this to be prioritised with the support of teachers. This will ensure the greatest positive impact when allocated grades are calculated.
- 2. Some or all exams for Year 10 are deferred to September:**

We understand that exams will be available for some students in September. At the moment this is targeted at those who do not feel their allocated grade reflects their likely performance. We do not know whether this extraordinary exam series will be open to Year 10, but it is possible this would become a requirement rather than an option for students who remain in full time compulsory education.

- 3. Students are required to sit their exams next summer alongside their other subjects.**

With deferred exams a possibility, it is even more important that students work hard in the interim period to ensure they are as well prepared as possible for this potential outcome.

I am sorry that we remain unable to provide clear answers to the important questions Year 10 students and families will have at this time. I hope this letter provides some clarification of the position as we understand it today, and provides some context for our expectations of students. We remain in assiduous pursuit of clarity from awarding bodies and Ofqual. Further announcements are expected this week and we will continue to update you as soon as new information is made available.

Your sincerely

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