



## Alderman Peel High School

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11 January 2021

### Year 11 Examinations and Assessment

Dear Year 11 students

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the Prime Minister announced that Secondary schools would need to close to most students as part of further lockdown measures to combat Covid-19. He also commented that it “would not be possible for examinations the summer to take place in the normal way”.

This announcement will have undoubtedly caused a variety of emotions for you and your parents. We know because we feel those emotions too, however, we do have the experience of similar circumstances last academic year to draw upon. Some of these concerns were addressed in an [assembly](#) with students last week.

Despite this announcement, there are no further details of what arrangements will replace the examination season. This has led to much speculation. The only thing that we know for sure is that the summer examination season will not take place in the “normal way”. We therefore think it is sensible to interpret this as follows:

- **It is not yet the case that all exams have definitely been cancelled.** Until such time this formal announcement is made, we should all continue to prepare for some form of examination across a range of subjects. It could be that examinations take a different form or still take place in selected subjects.
- **It is likely that schools will have to put forward centre-assessed grades.** In 2020, schools (centres) were asked to produce a set of moderated and standardised grades for students in each subject. We are well-positioned for this, as we have been preparing for this since September as part of contingency plans.
- **The situation is still unclear and prone to change.** We have already seen a number of changes to the government position on a number of issues. This includes the January vocational exams which changed three times in the space of 48 hours. There is still a lot of time for things to change further.
- **Exams are not the only reason to learn information.** All students will be progressing to sixth forms, colleges, apprenticeships or other employment with training. The knowledge contained in each of your subject specifications is both powerful and useful. This learning could be vital for future destinations.
- **No students will be disadvantaged by whatever process takes place.** This has been assured to us.

Therefore, we would like to give the following guidance:

1. **Continue to complete all work set by your teachers.** This is to ensure you make good progress towards: examinations and/or centre-assessed grades and/or destinations next year.
2. **Avoid speculation on social media and in the press.** We will plan our actions based upon official government guidance and we will share all relevant information with you once we receive it.
3. **Continue to look after your physical and mental well-being.** If you are concerned about anything or need to ask for some advice, please reach out to us so we can continue to support you.

If you need to borrow a laptop during this time, please contact Mr Tawana on [btawana8nrg@nsix.org.uk](mailto:btawana8nrg@nsix.org.uk) for help.

Yours sincerely

Mr Hardman  
Vice Principal

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