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Founded in 1717

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25th February 2021

Dear Year 11 and your parents/carers,

We hope that you are all well and we are pleased to see so many students maintaining their engagement in learning.

You may have heard Gavin Williamson's address today, Thursday 25th February, where he described some of the over-arching aims of the way that GCSE and Vocational Qualifications will be graded this year. The Department for Education has also published today an overview of that information.

The guidance that has been published today makes it clear that a range of evidence should be used by schools to determine a grade that is awarded; classwork, assessment exercises and mock or prelim exams from throughout your time studying were named in that document. The guidance also says that exam boards will provide schools with further assessment materials for us to use to help in determining how much a student knows. It is also very clear that the grade will not be based on the potential of a student, had the pandemic not occurred, but will be based on what the student knows and is able to do.

There are many, many questions prompted by the information released today, particularly around what the assessment materials will look like and the processes that school will need to go through under the guidance of the exam boards; none of this has been released to us. However, we are confident that our school systems and the expertise of our staff will lead to outcomes that are fair for all.

We have decided to postpone the Y11 Academic Monitoring and the Y11 Progress Afternoon until the other side of the Easter Break to ensure that we provide our students with the best possible information about how to achieve the best possible grade. We believe that it would be inappropriate to offer an Academic Monitoring Grade that is predicated on different way of assessing students to that which is planned.

Please be assured that we are working very hard, and will continue to do so, to provide the best quality learning experience for you, support you as we approach the grading period and abide by the guidance laid down by the government and the exam boards in ensuring a fair process.

The theme of "engagement" that we have shared several times in these updates and during our time in school is never more important for you! You need to make sure that you continue to provide your teachers with the evidence that they need in order to support you in the grading process by engaging fully with every learning opportunity. As has been discussed with you many times, successful students

will be fully engaged with class work, homework and revision. They will be organised in their approach to their learning and positive towards every learning opportunity. In short, if you expect a positive outcome in the summer, you must fully engage with every learning opportunity provided!

We understand that this year has been challenging and we are looking forward to you all returning to school so that we can settle your nerves, learn together in school and support you for the rest of your time as a Baines student and in preparation for your future beyond.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs A Chapman
Headteacher



Mr A Mycock
Assistant Headteacher

