



6 January 2021

GCSE and A Level Examinations Cancellation

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I write to you again following another major government announcement. Today the education secretary Gavin Williamson has announced that A Level, AS and GCSE examinations will not take place this academic year. Teacher assessed grades will be used and as Mr Williamson stated, 'This year we're going to put our trust in teachers rather than algorithms'.

At present, we have received no formal guidance about the grade awarding process. The government has promised us training and support to ensure grades are awarded fairly and consistently. Ofqual are starting a consultation next week that will last for a fortnight, so it is unlikely that we will receive detailed guidance in the short-term.

We can only ask that our students continue to actively engage with remote learning and then normal lessons and home learning on their eventual return to school. In the absence of summer exams, teachers will have to ultimately secure evidence about student learning in the coming months. Furthermore, the continued learning that will take place over the rest of this academic year will ensure our students grow into successful adults and enable them to secure their chosen destinations next year.

I sympathise greatly with our Year 11 and 13 students regarding the uncertainty they have faced this year but am confident that if they continue to work hard at Toot Hill School, they will have a very successful year.

As has become a common message this year, I will update you as I receive more information.

Yours faithfully,

Dr C Eardley
Head of School

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