

February 2021

Dear Year 10

As a department we understand that you have many questions as to how your Chemistry GCSE grades will be awarded this year in light of the announcement by the government in January. First of all, try not to panic! We have plenty of time to sort this out. What we ask of you is to be patient at the moment whilst we continue to wait for guidance from the government and the exam boards as to how the grades will be awarded.

Here is a summary of the information that we have been given so far:

- Due to education moving online for at least 6 weeks, exams will not be able to take place in the format they were due to in the summer.
- The government is liaising with OFQUAL and the exam boards as to how grades will be awarded this year and will pass on this information when they have made key decisions.
- We don't know yet if this will mean that there may be exams in some subjects or whether they will be none taking place in the summer.

Despite this uncertainty, there are actions that Year 10 students still need to be completing:

- Engage with all online lessons that are set by your class teachers via Google Classroom. If you have difficulty accessing this, please contact the school for help.
- No final grade is set for any student so you have everything to play for, it is therefore important for you to try your best in all work that you complete.
- We do not yet know what the evidence base will be for awarding grades to students, so if you did not perform as well as you may have wanted to previously, there is still time to improve upon this.

We will not be giving out any updated information on the predicted grades that were sent home in December at the moment, so please don't ask for them. This is to allow time for us to fully understand updated guidance as to how grades will be awarded this summer.

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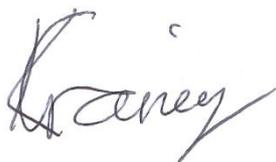
As a department we are going to continue with our Year 10 plan of action that we devised before the Christmas holidays. Students have spent this half term revising the content of the Unit 1 Chemistry paper and should have done a formal mock in school the week beginning 8th February. Sadly we are not back at school yet but we feel it is important that students are given the opportunity to show what they have revised and learned over the last 5 weeks and to develop exam technique skills that they will need in the future.

After the February half term we plan to revise the content in the Unit 2 Chemistry paper and again work towards developing exam skills for the future. We hope to be back in school in the near future and once we return to school we will arrange for more formal mocks to take place in order to get any data that we may need in the future.

As and when I have further information for you, I will write to you again. In the meantime, if you have any questions that are not answered here, please feel free to get in contact with myself or Mr Moth, Curriculum Leader for Science, and we will do our best to answer them.

I will finish this letter as I started, please do not panic! Everyone is working very hard to ensure you get the grades you deserve. We know this is not an ideal situation to be in, but continue to look to the future and the new adventures that await you.

Yours faithfully



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