



Our Reference SMCLET17/LH

22nd January 2021

Dear Parent/Carers

Sigma Sixth Update

As we draw to the end of the week, I thought I would take this opportunity to update you on some key information.

2021 Examinations Update

On Friday 15th January, following the cancellation of this year's summer exams, the Department for Education and Ofqual have launched a consultation seeking views on how to award grades in a way that reflects students' performance accurately, recognising the disruption they have faced this year.

Summary of proposals in the consultation:

- Students would continue with their education during this academic year.
- Students would be assessed by their teachers in a period beginning in May into early June.
- Results would be issued to students once the quality assurance process is complete, most likely in early July.

For more information please visit:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/consultation-launched-on-2021-exam-replacement>

We will continue to update you with any key information relating to how students will be assessed as we receive it. In the meantime, it is very important that all students remain engaged with their learning, as with continued hard work there is still time to improve upon their summer grades.

Remote Learning

We have been delighted with the start to remote learning; the vast majority of students have been positive and responsive. Teachers are providing students with live lesson opportunities integrated with independent, assignment based tasks during their normal timetabled day.

We are monitoring attendance at live lessons and any absences will be communicated to you through text, email or phone call. Please contact the sixth form if there are technical issues, illness or any other reasons why students are unable to access the work. Additionally, advise the sixth form team of issues with laptops and devices or internet difficulties, we will do our best to offer any technical advice or support.

We are also contacting the parents of those students who are raising concerns due to limited engagement with their lessons and the quality of work completed. As a college, we are committed to working in partnership with our parents, but now more so than ever, the importance of home and college working in partnership cannot be underestimated. We are confident that with your encouragement and support, we can ensure students remain motivated and engaged with their learning. As previously stated, opportunities remain for grades to be improved upon in the summer exam results.

UCAS – Year 13

The new UCAS deadline for applications is Friday 29th of January 2021 at 6pm. The sixth form team are presently working through the applications received and year 13 students will receive an alert from UCAS once their application has been sent off. It is important that applicants continue to check their emails regularly until they have received notification from UCAS.

If you have any questions or queries about UCAS applications please email the sixth form team.

Parent Consultation Evening – Thursday 28th January 2021

We look forward to welcoming you to our first virtual parent consultation evening on Thursday 28th January. Appointments are now available to book so please follow the guidance shared with you on Monday 18th January. If you need to view this letter or the parent guidance, it is available on our website: www.sigmasixthtendring.org.uk under the 'Key Information' tab. If you need any support with making bookings, please contact us.

Thank you for your continued support during these challenging times. I hope you have a restful weekend.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S McKarry
Head of College
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