9th March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are well. We are all delighted to welcome students back to school this week.

As you will be aware the Government have made the decision that public examinations will not be taking place this summer. The Government and Ofqual published their guidance on how students would be assessed in each of their subjects on Thursday 25th February, and the link to that guidance is below.

[Ofqual Guidance - February 2021](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965005/6747-1_decisions_-_GQ_consultation_on_awarding_grades_in_2021.pdf)

At Dormers Wells High School we want to provide every student with an opportunity to achieve the grades that they are capable of achieving, and to ensure that no student is at a disadvantage in working towards their final grades. We also appreciate that this has been a challenging year for students and wish to make the assessment process as straightforward for students as possible.

To support with this, each student will complete a summer assessment in each of their examination subjects as follows:

* Assessments will take place between **Thursday 6th May and Friday 14th May**.
* Students will sit a two-hour paper in each subject.
* Students will receive a topic list for each subject assessment.
* Eid is due to fall on Wednesday 12th or Thursday 13th May, and there will be no assessments scheduled for those two days.
* Students who would usually receive extra time in examinations will continue to do so.

We fully recognise the challenges that students have faced over the past year, and this will be reflected in the nature of the summer assessments. Students will not be expected to revise the whole course, but will instead be given a topic list based upon the content of the assessment which will help them to revise only those topics that appear in the assessment. This will help to reduce the stress on students while still ensuring that they are fairly assessed.

We are also conscious that Year 13 students have not yet had the opportunity to sit PPEs. Year 13 PPEs will take place, but in a different form to that which had been intended for January. Instead of sitting a range of papers in each subject, students will sit a **one hour paper in each subject**. The PPEs will take place during lesson time between **Monday 29th March and Wednesday 31st March**. This will support students in preparing for the summer assessments, while also taking into account the very different nature of this school year.

The summer assessment will contribute approximately 50% towards the final centre assessed grade in each subject. The remainder of the grade will be based upon the March PPE, and predicted grades. Please note that the predictions are those that students received on their progress checks rather than the UCAS predictions. This will ensure that students are given credit for the work that they have completed so far, while still having the opportunity to further improve their grade.

Over the coming weeks the Year 13 pastoral team and teachers will continue to support your child in working towards the summer assessments and in helping them to achieve the grades that they deserve this summer.

Yours sincerely,

Mr D. Fenlon
Head of School