



MALVERN COLLEGE

Letter to Hundred and Pre Sixth

Sent via ISAMS

7 January 2021

Dear Pupils and Parents

You will no doubt be aware that yesterday the Secretary of State for Education confirmed that GCSE exams will not take place in England this summer. Instead, GCSE grades will be based on teacher assessments. However, as you know, about half of our subjects at Malvern take IGCSE courses and the other half GCSE. The two IGCSE exam boards we use are Pearson/Edexcel and Cambridge International Assessment. Pearson state that, 'At this time, our intention is to run the May/June 2021 series for International GCSE, as planned.' Cambridge International announced earlier this week that, 'With regard to our schools in the UK, Cambridge International will be monitoring the decisions being taken on June exams and working closely with the UK Department for Education and Ofqual. We will share further details as soon as possible.' So, at this point, it is possible that our candidates may still sit IGCSE exams in some subjects this summer while receiving teacher assessed grades in their GCSE subjects.

Currently, we have no information from the Department for Education or from Ofqual about how we will be required to make the teacher assessed grades for GCSE, nor the timeline for doing so. We hope that we may receive some further detail late next week from Ofqual that will, at least, outline the key principles for carrying out those teacher assessments but no fixed date has been given for an announcement. Pending further information, we will continue to teach the Hundred and Pre-Sixth Form as normal. Once we have sufficient further information about the nature and timing of the teacher assessments and whether they will apply to IGCSE subjects as well, we will respond accordingly and modify our teaching and assessment practices where necessary.

The GCSE/IGCSE trial exams are scheduled for 18-30 January but I can now confirm that they will not go ahead on those dates and, that, if we do hold trial GCSE/IGCSE exams, they will not take place until the second half of this term, as we do not think it sensible to hold trials whilst still not knowing whether the IGCSE exams will go ahead nor what the GCSE teacher assessed grades will be based on. Decisions about the trial exams need to wait on further clarification on those two issues.

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We are sorry that it is such an unsettling time for everyone and particularly for you, the pupils in the Hundred and Pre-Sixth Form. However, we can reassure you that whatever is required from us by the government, we will respond successfully to. Last summer's Centre Assessed Grade process was planned and executed in a highly professional and effective manner at Malvern and this experience will stand us in very good stead for managing teacher assessments this summer. As soon as we have further substantive information about the new assessment process for GCSEs and whether IGCSE exams will go ahead, we will update you.

Yours sincerely



Joe Gauci
Director of Studies



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