



Queen Mary's Grammar School

Headmaster: R J Langton, M A

16th October 2020

Dear Parents

I trust that your child is enjoying being back at school and the sense of normality that this brings. I am pleased to report that year 11 has seen very high levels of attendance and much better behaviour since we have been back. As a year group, they should be pleased with their conduct.

Soon, Year 11 will have mock exams running from 16 of November for around 2 weeks. A timetable will be provided. These are an important milestone in their year and must be taken seriously by both parents and students alike. Students who do well in these tests tend to do better in their actual GCSE exams. At Queen Mary's, the exams are set by their teachers and aim to include the entirety of the course taught so far and reflect the real exams. They are also assessed in a fashion as close to the real exams as possible. As such, students and parents can have a real certainty in the robustness of our system this year as in previous years.

This year, it is a requirement for schools to hold mock exams in controlled conditions, with exam-style invigilation, marking and grading. At Queen Mary's this will look the same as every year. However, it is clear that the Government is ensuring that all schools have rigorous data should the summer GCSE exams be disrupted.

At the recent parents' evening, I included in my video speech how parents can help their children prepare. The most important message is that, whilst clever and bright, children really do need your help and support. Any structure you are able to put in place, such as helping plan their revision time or guaranteeing a couple of hours of quiet work, will help your child excel in these exams in November and their GCSEs in the summer.

The Summer GCSE exams have been delayed by three weeks to give all students more time for study. Also, there will be one GCSE Maths and English exam before the summer half term to ensure that all students have at least one exam in these subjects should there be any disruptions with individual arrangements. The results days are also later this year, with GCSE students getting their results on Friday 27 August.

Thank you again for your support and thank you for your understanding in these challenging times. It is pleasing that year 11 are taking their education very seriously.

Kind regards

Mr R J Langton
Headmaster

Mr M O Rendu
Head of Year