



*Striving for Excellence*

# Cirencester Kingshill School

*Head: Christine S. Oates*

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Happy New Year to you and your families. I hope this letter finds you all safe and well.

I wanted to write to all parents and carers of Y11 pupils following the announcement made by the Prime Minister in his address to the nation last night, about the Summer 2021 examinations.

To quote Mr Johnson, "We recognise that [the national lockdown] will mean it's not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer, as normal,". This has been followed this morning by a statement by Cabinet Office minister Michael Gove, who confirmed with "the heaviest of hearts", that this year's GCSE and A-level examinations have been cancelled.

Mr Gove also said that Education Secretary Gavin Williamson would make a statement about alternative assessments on Wednesday.

At the point of writing, we have not received formal notice of exactly what this means to our pupils, and we do not expect to hear this until after Wednesday. What we can tell you and your children however, is that we will communicate with you as soon as we possibly can once we have heard from the DfE and Ofqual, and we know how our Y11 pupils will be assessed for their GCSE examinations. Our early thinking at this point, is that we will push back the mock examinations that were scheduled for February 2021, and hold them later in the school year in order to use them to form part of our formal assessment of pupils. This will all be confirmed however, once we have received more information from Ofqual.

What I would ask of you as parents and carers at this time, is that you encourage your children to maintain their studies and continue to work hard during the current online learning period. It is probable that teacher assessment will form a significant part of their overall grades, so it is vital that we continue to see the best that your child is able to deliver. I would also encourage your child to contact their class teachers at the earliest opportunity should they have any problems with accessing lessons, or completing any of the work set. Your child has access to their school email, and all teachers are contactable this way. As a parent or carer, if you have any concerns about your child's learning during this period of online provision, please contact Mr Edwards, Head of Year 11, or Mr Pritchard, Deputy Headteacher and curriculum lead.

As always, many thanks for your continued understanding and support, and I will write to you again as soon as I have more details to share.

Yours sincerely,

Miss C. S. Oates  
Headteacher

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