



# Enfield County School for Girls

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Headteacher: Ms Jennifer Gumbrell

Dear Year 11 and Parents / Carers,

11 January 2021

As we are sure you are all aware, there has now been a very important and substantial update by the DfE with regards to the GCSE exams this year, as summarised below:

- Students will not sit GCSE or A level exams this summer
- A consultation will be launched next week by Ofqual (the exams regulator) and will conclude swiftly to give certainty to schools, colleges and students
- We expect Ofqual to consider a teacher-assessed system as a replacement
- Teachers will be given training and support to ensure these marks are awarded fairly and consistently

Ofqual have also released the following statement to reassure students:

*We know that this is a difficult time for students, their parents and carers, teachers and trainers. Our message to students is this: please continue to engage as fully as you can in your education. That will be online for the majority of students, or face-to-face for those students still going in to their school, college or training provider. This will put you in the best position, whatever arrangements are made for your qualifications. It's important that teachers and students can focus on the knowledge and skills needed to equip students to progress to the next stage, whatever form that might take – whether to college, an apprenticeship, university or employment.*

*The way ahead is not straightforward: exams and standardised assessments are the fairest way of determining what a student knows and can do. We need to consider a wide range of qualifications – from A levels and GCSEs to many different vocational and technical qualifications – and the solution won't be the same for all. Following the government's announcement on Monday evening, we also need to consider how alternative arrangements will work for different students, including those who are independent learners. We are discussing alternative arrangements with the Department for Education. We know that many are seeking clarity as soon as possible. We will provide further updates as soon as we can.*

We are awaiting further clarification about Vocational Qualifications.

In response to this recent announcement, this is what we intend to do here at ECSfG as the first part of our work in relation to this:

1. We will be conducting a data collection immediately for all Year 11 students which will provide us with the most up to date information re attainment and estimated grades for each student. This is part of our normal 'tracking process' and it will also assist students with their Post 16 applications to ECSfG on our school website in the Post 16 section. The mock marks (if the mock exams were completed) will be taken into consideration as part of that process. No student will be disadvantaged if it was not possible for them to sit any mock paper before Christmas.
2. Year 11 Parents Evening will be held digitally on School Cloud (more details to follow) on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> January from 3.45pm onwards. This will enable teachers to discuss

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attainment and progress and more importantly to share with students and their parents/carers what students can do to improve their performance.

3. We will be continuing with our teaching on MS Teams and it is absolutely crucial that all students engage fully with us, both in terms of attending lessons and completing any work that is assigned to them by their teachers. In effect, it is very much 'business as usual.'

We will of course, update you with any developments if and when there are any. We appreciate this is a very worrying time for all students and their families. We will, as always, do the very best that we can for our students and we will support you as a family as much as we possibly can.

Please do contact us if you have any concerns or queries at this moment in time.

Yours sincerely,

Miss S Evans

Assistant Headteacher- Raising Standards