

19 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Moving INSET day and additional afternoon**

Over recent weeks we have been working intensively on our plans to design a process of awarding the grades for our Year 11 and Year 13 students this summer. This includes an entire assessment system focused on delivering fair and accurate grades for all students. This has been a huge undertaking alongside reintegrating all our students safely over the last two weeks. Thank you for your support with this process.

Given this level of responsibility on teachers and the school, we are conscious of balancing the immediate need alongside the long term educational plans for all students who have been impacted by the disruption during the past twelve months. Parents/Carers with children in Year 11 or Year 13 are aware of the high stakes environment surrounding awarding this summer and know how this feels. I therefore need to ask for an understanding from all parents/carers as we finalise our plans to ensure sufficient time is devoted to this process.

The two changes below are to provide time for teaching teams to carry out important quality assurance processes.

- The INSET day scheduled for Tuesday 4 May will move to Monday 17 May
- We will be shortening the day on Tuesday 11 May meaning school will end at 12:40pm. There will be no lunch service on this day. Children entitled to free school meals will be able to collect their allocation at break time.

Building on the structure of the screen free days, we will share ideas and resources to support students to engage in positive and purposeful wider activity that broadens their horizons. Please note that we will be asking all students to make their way directly home at the end of the school day.

I recognise that after a disruptive twelve months this may seem counter to our strong instincts to maximise the opportunities for young people in their education. In limiting the additional time, we are balancing the priority of supporting our students to thrive in the years to come through investing in them over time (further details to follow) with the very significant short-term demands that have been placed on us to deliver the grading process this year for Year 11 and 13. The governing body have given their full support to these plans.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

With best wishes



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**Headteacher**

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