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Dear Parent/Carer

Mock Examinations and Grading

It is very important that we are clear with you about the approach schools will be taking to the grading of mock examinations in 2021/22.

The grade boundaries applied to examinations in England change year-on-year and are only determined after the summer exams are sat. This allows the government to ensure that 'grade inflation' is kept under control, and that the number of grades awarded at each level year-on-year is comparable.

For this reason, teachers usually apply the previous year's grade boundaries to deliver a meaningful approximate 'grade' to mock examination papers. This is not possible to do in 2022 because the summer exams in 2020 and 2021 were cancelled.

'End of course predictions' made by our teachers have historically been relatively accurate. The teacher makes a professional prediction, allowing for the expected progress and improvement a child is likely to make between their mock exams and the final examination. Again, this process will be slightly more difficult for teachers in 2022 because of the instability there has been in the grading process nationally since 2019.

Along with our partner schools across the CMAT trust, teachers in different subjects are working to agree similar grade boundaries and approaches to grading. Mapping these against historical trends and national data will allow for a greater degree of confidence in the grades formulated and ensure there is standardisation.

For these reasons, the following principles need to be applied when looking at mock examination grades and end of course predictions.

- The November 2021 mock exams are a sample of *some* of the knowledge and understanding students have at this point. Not all subjects will examine every aspect of the course in this series of exams. Not all subjects are running a mock exam in this series.
- Any 'grades' shared with students linked to specific mock exams are approximations and must be treated with caution. They are indicative rather than definitive. Some teachers may not attach grades to individual papers, but instead focus on a score or simply feedback on strengths and areas for development.
- The 'end of course prediction' grades that you will receive in January 2022 are the most important and valuable indication you will receive in relation to your child's progress. They are also the most historically reliable measure of what they are likely to achieve in the summer.
- The most important purpose of the mock exams is to gain an understanding of the areas your child should be focusing their remaining time and revision on to maximise their chances of success and progression in the summer. Teachers will work to give feedback that informs students in this way.



You will receive a full progress report for your child in the first week after the Christmas holidays, detailing their 'end of course prediction' to give you a clear understanding of their most likely final grade based on all current indications.

If you have any further questions or queries at this stage, then please email your child's Senior Tutor in the usual way.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S Warburton', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Warburton
Principal