



# Aston Manor Academy

All different • All equal • All achieving

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HEADTEACHER: JILL SWEENEY



25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parent

I would like to thank you for the ongoing support that you have provided to your child over the last three weeks since we moved the whole school into online learning, following the national school closures that were announced on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. We are delighted with the engagement and attitude that Year 11 students have demonstrated in lessons and through the work that they have submitted to their teachers. In what is a very difficult and emotional time for students, the vast majority have risen to the challenge, attending all online lessons and continuing to submit work at a high standard.

I am writing this letter now to inform you about what the next steps for Year 11 will be. On the 6th January, the exam system as we have previously known it, with formal, external examinations sat in the summer, was cancelled by the Secretary of State for Education. I know that this will have caused a great deal of anxiety and distress amongst many students, and uncertainty as to how grades will be awarded in the summer. Ofqual, the exams regulator has started a consultation on how assessments may take place, suggesting what evidence may contribute to this grade and how this process will be quality assured. They have invited parents to give their views and we very much hope that you are able to. Please click on this link <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/8BYI4T/> to access the consultation document.

Whilst I cannot give you many details about what will happen in the summer, and it is likely that the results of the consultation will not be published until late February, we do know the following:

- Your child needs to continue to work hard in their remote learning because the work they do now will have a bearing on their final grade. It will also develop the knowledge and skills that will be important in the next stages of their life.
- When students return to school, we are anticipating that further assessments will be completed in each subject. These assessments will build on the evidence that we currently have for each student. They will most likely be internally created by subject departments, however we anticipate examination boards will also provide some for us to use.
- Schools will be responsible in the summer for awarding students with their grades, this has been confirmed by the Secretary of State for Education. We are still waiting to see what this process will involve. I want to assure you that we have experience of this from last year, and expect the process to involve several layers of in-school moderation. Final grades awarded will not be the decision of a single subject teacher.

This is a constantly changing and evolving situation and I will continue to update you on any key facts and information that I receive. There are lots of reports and stories in the media that sometimes miss the key points, so please feel reassured that I will keep you up to date with all the relevant information.

Yours sincerely

James Forbes

**Assistant Headteacher - KS4**

