



Tuesday, 18th May 2021

Dear All Parents and Carers,

I do hope this letter finds you and your families well and looking forward to the summer (it would be nice to see the sunshine!).

The assessments for Year 11 and Year 13 have two weeks to go now and we are impressed with their maturity and focus. It is not easy to have the method of assessment changed partway through the course, but they are taking it in their stride. Once the assessments are finished the teaching staff will begin the complex and detailed task of assessing and moderating their work.

To help with this process, teachers at the William Parker campus (upper school Years 9-13) need time to meet in their departments and discuss the portfolios of evidence therefore, the **Inset Day** on the 19th of April which was cancelled has been moved to **Friday 28th May 2021**.

During the day teachers will complete the work required to ensure Centre Assessed grades are fair for all students. Teachers have to compare assessments from students in different classes and agree that they have met the required standard equally. In the large departments this can mean ten separate teachers ensuring that all their marking is standardised. Then agreeing the marks for the students. Furthermore, Heads of Department must be certain that each assessment was marked correctly by all teachers and that they have levelled each student at the correct standard. Finally, Heads of Department moderate the assessments from our students, with subject colleagues from across the Ark trust. To give you a sense of the challenge for staff, in English, there are 2,520 assessments to be marked, moderated and standardised.

I recognise moving the inset day in this way can be inconvenient for parents and carers, and we do not take this decision lightly. There will be independent work set for students' lessons in Years 9, 10 & 12. These resources can be accessed via TEAMS or SMHW.

Years 7 & 8 should be in school as normal. The Helenswood campus is *not included* in this Inset Day.

Regards,

Liam Collins
Principal

Principal: Mr L Collins
Network Associate Principal: Mr J Scafe