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4 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

On Thursday, the Department for Education released some updated information about GCSE exams for 2021. You may have seen this in the media, therefore we wanted to share this information with you at the earliest opportunity.

The announcement informed us that the Government are clear that exams are the most appropriate way to assess a student's academic performance, which indicates we should be confident that exams will go ahead as planned this summer.

They have outlined some additional measures to support students in light of the exceptional circumstances we are in. The exam window has been moved back by 2 weeks and are scheduled to start on 24 May 2021.

In addition to this, other measures include;

- More generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged.
- Students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE to focus revision.
- Exam aids, like formula sheets, provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise.
- Additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to self-isolation.

If you would like to see the full update it can be found here <u>https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-</u> measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summers-exams

This update is of course well received and I hope provides our students and families with more reassurances about the security of their GCSE exams this summer.

However, it is vital that students still continue to prepare in the same manner, which they have been doing so far this year. We are very proud of the way year 11 students have approached the current mock exam period. Students are working very hard at home as well as in school. There has been exceptional usage of the revision page on the school website which is clearly supporting students in their studies at home. https://carletonhigh.patrust.org.uk/revision-support/

I would like to once again take the opportunity to thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please don't hesitate to contact me in school.

Yours faithfully

Mrs. H Norman Assistant Headteacher

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