

KING EDWARD VI COMMUNITY COLLEGE



learning to flourish

Principal Alan Salt

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Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope this finds you well. We are really pleased at the start students have made to the summer term over the past two weeks following such a disrupted year.

Students are being brilliant at adapting to life outside of their year group bubbles. It has been great to see the balance between taking real care of the continuing dangers of COVID, and slowly moving back to a more 'normal' school life in action.

School Closure to Students: Friday 28 May 2021

Many of you, and no doubt all of you with young people in Year 11 and Year 13, will be aware that in the absence of external exams this summer, teachers are responsible for assessing and determining grades ('Centre Assessed Grades,' or CAGS).

Despite our school still having to pay fees to exam boards of over £100,000, it is our teachers and students who are rising to the challenge of completing additional assessments in every GCSE and A-level subject between now and the end of May.

As you will appreciate, this is an enormous responsibility and our staff are determined to ensure that the process is fair, rigorous and robust. Assessments are being marked to strict exam board criteria, and teachers are also undertaking moderation: the vital process of checking, re-checking and comparing their marking with colleagues to ensure that judgments are fair and accurate.

We are determined to ensure this process is completed to the highest standards. To enable us to do so, we will be **closing the school to all students for one day on Friday 28 May 2021**. This will give us essential time for colleagues to discuss and moderate assessment marking.

Please be assured this is not a decision we have taken lightly, particularly in such a disruptive year for our young people; however we owe it to our Y11 and Y13 students to ensure their assessments and grades are subject to the most robust and fair discussion possible.

Teachers will revise their planning to ensure that the impact of this extra day on learning is mitigated against.

As ever, we are always keen to hear feedback and comments from parents and carers. Please note we will be holding another of our regular **Q and A sessions next Thursday 13 May** online via google meets at 5.30pm to 6.30pm, or email me directly with any comments or feedback on asalt@kingedwardvi.devon.sch.uk.

Yours faithfully

Alan Salt
Principal

