



Heart



Mind



Connect

22nd February 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. I know that as your child is nearing their final examinations next year, you will be particularly concerned about the government plans for reopening school. It is obviously worrying that students in Year 10 have missed so much in-school learning.

We are very aware of the challenges facing Year 10 students when they hopefully return to school and have been discussing with teaching staff how we can further support your child for the remainder of this year and more importantly during Year 11. As your child began their GCSE courses at the beginning of Year 9, they are due to complete two of their option choices, as planned, at the end of this year. This is a strategy that the school has been using with great success for the last few years.

For this academic year and in response to the pandemic, we are proposing that students also sit their final option choice at the end of this year, in Summer 2021. This will mean that your child will have completed three of their GCSEs and have approximately seven to complete in Year 11.

Allowing students to take another of their GCSEs at the end of Year 10 will help us to do the following:

- Focus our support and attention on the three early GCSEs on our return to school.
- Ensure that we have the time and staffing to provide extra lessons in core subjects: English, Maths, Science and Humanities throughout the whole of Year 11.
- Extra lessons timetabled in Year 11 will be delivered by the student's main teachers in the subject; we think this will be much more useful than after-school classes/interventions and will allow us to 'catch up' any lost learning.
- Support your child's applications to Post-16 providers and 6th forms; colleges and 6th forms are primarily concerned with the student's achievements and progress in core subjects.
- Support your child's future plans by providing greater capacity for careers guidance.

If you have any concerns, please contact Mr Horsfall (Year 10 Progress Leader) on progressleaderyear10@thehalifaxacademy.org or Miss Hawkins (Year 11 Progress Leader) on progressleaderyear11@thehalifaxacademy.org

We will also be hosting a Q&A session for parents during this week. Students will have assemblies explaining our plans. Mock grades for all courses to be taken at the end of this academic year will also be sent to parents week beginning March 1st.

Thank you for your continued support. As usual please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like further information.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Jones
Deputy Head teacher