

Friday 30th April 2021

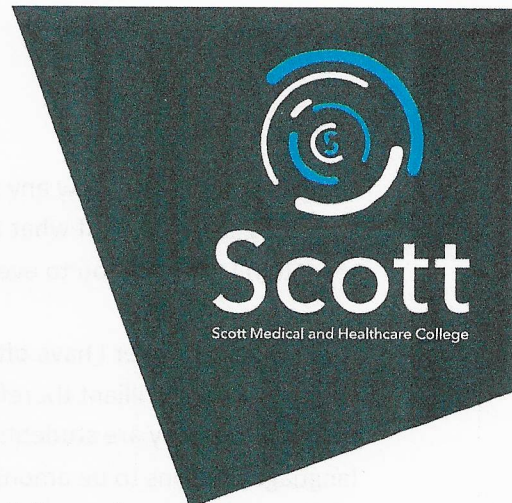
Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing this letter at the end of another very fruitful week at Scott College. As you will be aware the Department for Education cancelled the exams for Years 11/13 this year resulting in schools being responsible for issuing Teacher Assessed Grades. As you can imagine we have been waiting for clear direction as to what evidence we need to provide in order to justify the grades that we give to our students. This has been drip-fed to us over the past month and we now have a fairly complete picture of the requirements, although there is still a significant amount of school level interpretation of this. I have been working with Mr Cresswell and the staff and governors to develop a policy which will be available from next week on our school website which details how we are awarding grades. Essentially students in the examination years have been completing a series of mini and micro assessments which are then compared with exam board exemplar materials in order to formulate a 'best fit' judgment. This is by no means an exact science so we are ensuring that we are moderating our judgments both within Scott College and with the other schools within the Greenshaw Learning Trust to check we are as accurate as possible. These grades will be submitted to the exam boards in June and we will find out the awarded grades mid-August.

I want to recognise the anxiety created for some staff, students and parents during these uncertain times. As a parent of a Y13 child I recognise how difficult it has been for young people but I have been incredibly proud of the way our children at Scott College have remained stoic during this period of time. We often talk about 'controlling the controllables' and I feel that, as a learning community, this is what we are doing. Students are preparing well for the second round of these mini assessments and I know you will join me in wishing all of them the very best of luck.

We have had an increasing number of visitors to the school over the past week. There are lots of very excited new Year 9 students dropping in to tour the school and I have to say they have been incredibly impressed by our facilities, staff and our extremely polite students who are consistently working hard in our classes.

This hard work is being supported by the staff and student focus on ensuring that ALL students are ready to learn particularly in the interchange between each section of the lesson. Every minute of every lesson needs to count and we will be continuing to work on this to ensure consistency across the school.



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**Caring to Learn -  
Learning to Care**

I'd be very happy to show any parents around the college who would like to gain a first-hand experience of what this looks like. If you could book a slot in through the reception I will take you to every part of the school.

As a regular traveller I have often been hamstrung by my inability to speak foreign languages. It is brilliant therefore that we have such strong languages here at Scott College. Not only are students making good progress, they are also reporting their languages lessons to be amongst their favourite lessons. (This is quite unusual from my experience and is a credit to the staff here at Scott College).

Finally I can report that our school dog Fern is continuing to bring joy to staff and students at the College. She has an incredible way of taking the heat out of tricky situations and I'd urge you to meet her if you come into the school. She will continue to work with us going forwards.

We hope you have a very enjoyable bank holiday weekend and we look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 4th May.

Yours Faithfully

Naomi Leech  
Headteacher