



## Watford Grammar School for Boys

Rickmansworth Road, Watford WD18 7JF Tel: (01923) 208900 Fax: (01923) 208901  
www.watfordboys.org  
Headmaster: Mr I Cooksey MA (Oxon) MA (Lond)

30<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I write to inform you that we are making a temporary adjustment to our daily timetable for a period of nine school days before half-term (that is from Monday 17th May until Thursday 27th May).

As you will be aware, schools this year have been asked to assess the GCSE and A level grades of their students. This is an extremely onerous task with the school setting, standardising, marking and moderating a large number of assessments and implementing a rigorous process for the determination of grades. The demands on the teaching staff created by this process are very significant. In order to enable us to conduct this process with appropriate rigour and to create the meeting time for staff to conduct standardisation, we are shortening the school day by approximately an hour for this nine day period.

We will retain the same structure to each of these days, but shorten each lesson in the day by 10 minutes to 50 rather than 60 minutes. Therefore all students will attend the same number of lessons as usual in this period and will continue to follow the same curriculum. School will finish at 1.55pm for the students and teachers will continue to work through into the evening on the assessment activities.

We will ensure that students' homework is bolstered to a commensurate extent and that we are satisfied that there is no deleterious effect on the learning of these year groups. If we believe it is necessary we will provide further additional support to students in these years after half term when the process for establishing GCSE and A level grades is complete.

During this nine day period individual Music lessons with peripatetic staff will proceed as normal. Where students have music lessons or other appointments after the end of the school day as adjusted (such as Year 10 catch-up provision or sports fixtures) we will provide a supervised space up until the end of the normal school day.

As ever we appreciate your support, and all the more so through the challenges of this era of the Covid pandemic.

Yours sincerely