



7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

With the country moving into another National Lockdown and schools moving to remote learning for this half term, I recognise that this may place additional strain on families. Again, we find ourselves in this strange position of the school building being too quiet for a school without the children here. I want to reassure you that we will be supporting you from a distance over the coming weeks.

Coaches will be in regular contact with students/parents to check in. They can work in partnership with you to challenge and support students with engaging in their online learning and to provide any other support you may need, even if it is just a chat.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, we will be delivering hampers this week and we will be in contact in the coming days regarding future deliveries. If your family's financial circumstances have changed recently and you think you may be entitled to FSM then please contact your child's Coach or Year Manager and we can discuss this with you.

Year 11 Qualifications

Following the government announcement, we know that GCSE exams will not go ahead this summer: grades will instead be awarded through teacher assessment. We do not know yet what plans the government will put in place for moderation of those grades or students' work. As soon as we are informed about these plans, we will inform you. Please be reassured that we as a school have given significant thought to an assessment plan over the remaining months of this school year that will allow us to assess students work in a comprehensive manner to inform teacher assessed grades. This includes rescheduling the mock exams that were originally scheduled for the w/c 18th January, to a later date when the students return to school. Children will need to continue to work hard on all of their subjects in order to be prepared for these assessments.

We would like to explain more about this assessment plan, expectations regarding the students work on Moodle and how we can support in the week ahead. We are holding a Year 11 Webinar via Zoom on Thursday 14th January 3.00pm-4.00pm, in which there will be presentations outlining the above and chance for you to ask questions. I would strongly encourage you to attend. A link to register for the webinar will be texted to you in the coming days, you will need to register in order to obtain the Zoom login details.

We understand that this is an uncertain time for you and your children: some of your children will feel relieved and others will feel disappointed, or perhaps a mixture of both. The students have shown a great deal of character and have applied great effort to date in coping with the turbulence, and we trust that they will continue in this way. Please continue to support your child, as you always do, to work hard and be determined to succeed.

Subject teachers will continue to put relevant work on Moodle and expect students to complete the tasks. This work will replace the revision for their mocks and will continue the usual pattern of learning.

Thank you for your on going to support in these challenging times.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Jefferson', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval shape.

Samantha Jefferson
Headteacher