

Our Ref: BCH/lw/2020-21/007

16th December 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

It has been a very tough term for everyone. You have risen to the challenges and restrictions of the bubbles and rules extremely well and worked hard to maintain your studies through this difficult time. Studying in the atrium has been challenging but many of you have persevered. I would like to encourage more of you to start staying in school in the New Year, it is beneficial to routine and helps to establish a working and home life separation. We will be continuing to offer a full range of support.

Year 13 will have PPE (mock) exams on their return in January (Monday 11th- 15th) and it is important that you plan your revision for the Christmas holidays and the first week of term 3. The exams are hugely important. If there is disruption to the summer examinations, these exams will form part of your rank order and awarded grade. We may yet be asked to submit grades to 'shadow' the exams. Therefore, please take these PPEs seriously. Please don't treat them as an opportunity to find out what you don't know! Resources to aid your further revision have been discussed in tutor period and sent out via email. Please speak to tutors or subject teachers if you need any support.

The fundraising 'bike ride' for your chosen charity, Papyrus, has been fantastic. It has been wonderful to see so many of you participating. Please do all make donations and bring in any sponsorship money.

Summer Examinations 2021

On the 3rd December, there was a Government announcement confirming that the summer examination series will go ahead. Compared to previous years the following changes have been made:

Examination Timetable - To create more teaching time, most exams have been moved back 3 weeks, with the main exam series taking place from 7 June to 2 July 2021.

Grading of qualifications - In recognition of the challenges this year group have faced and is facing, Ofqual has decided that grading will carry forward the overall generosity of 2020, to ensure the 2021 cohort are treated fairly, relative to their 2020 peers.

Supporting students – Students, will be supported through providing advance notice of some of the topic areas that will be covered in exams. Additionally, in some subjects, supporting materials, such as formula sheets, will be provided on the day of the exams. This will allow students to focus on depth of understanding in these areas and target their revision in the run up to exams

Absence from exams - Should a student miss some, or all, of the papers in a subject but have completed sufficient non-examined assessment (as a result of sickness or the need to self isolate) then they can still achieve a grade through the special consideration process.

If a student misses all GCSE or A level assessments in a subject due to sickness related to coronavirus (COVID-19), or the need to self-isolate and is unable to access the special consideration process, they will be eligible to sit a single contingency paper. This will take place between 28 June to 16 July 2021 and will be timetabled to allow at least a 10-day gap after each subject's final paper in the main series.

In the event that a student misses all of their GCSE or A level papers in a subject during both the summer series and the contingency series, with legitimate reason, and does not have the required non-examined assessed elements required to access the special considerations process, a validated teacher assessment may be used to award a grade.

Head Teacher: David Alexander, BA (Hons); MSc

The government is due to release additional information regarding the Summer 2021 examination series in the new year.

Forthcoming dates:

4 th January	Inset Day
5 th January	Start of Term 3 (week 4 – lessons B2, B4, B5)
11 th – 15 th January	Y13 PPE Mock Exams
11 th February	Y12 and Y13 virtual 'invite only' PCM
12 th February	End of term

All that remains is for me to wish you all a healthy and happy Christmas and a Joyful New Year.

Yours sincerely

6th Form Team