

19 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Years 11 students,

I hope you had a restful and peaceful Easter break. We are living in truly unparalleled times which require tremendous strength and resilience. I would like to thank all the parents and carers for supporting your child's learning and wellbeing while they have been studying at home. I also urge all families to continue to follow the Government's advice on social distancing. By doing this we will lessen the time we are isolated and bring closer the date we can return our school community to normality.

I am sure you are aware that the Government has cancelled all summer examinations for Year 11 and Year 13. We have therefore decided that there will be one more week of lessons for Year 11. **From Monday 27 April, Year 11 will be set work which will support their progression to the next stage in their learning, whether it is A Levels, Apprenticeships or Technical qualifications.**

**Please note that is very important for students to continue to take part in lessons next week.** This is because we need to be confident that all Year 11 students have actually finished the curriculum and has learned everything they need to know on the specification. This is really important in case students need to sit an examination in the autumn term. We will send a centre assessment grade to the examination board which we think is fair, but that does not mean the examination board will keep to that grade. They may put it up, they may put it down. If it goes down and a student needs a better grade for University or for the Sixth Form or because they think they deserve it, they will need to be prepared to sit an autumn examination.

Secondly, it is really important that Year 11 students continue to revise. The revision which is undertaken to prepare for examinations really makes the knowledge stick in the memory. The intensity of examination revision not only helps students to retain knowledge it makes connections not realised before. The process of revising and embedding knowledge actually makes students much better prepared for A Levels.

I would also like to remind parents that the Centre Assessment Grades sent to examination boards by the school this summer must remain strictly confidential. The Department for Education has made it very clear that we must not, under any circumstances, share this information with students or parents/carers.

Of course, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns about your child's learning or wellbeing. Please contact your child's Pastoral Manager in the first instance. You can find their email address by using the tabs on the right of the [school's home page](#). You can also telephone the main switchboard during office hours to speak to a member of the admin team who will pass messages on to relevant members of staff.

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While learning is important, please do remind your child to take breaks away from screens. They should also make time for exercise, games, fun and connecting with friends and family. While we cannot say when we will be able to open the school fully, rest assured that we will continue doing our utmost to support our students learning and involved in the school community.

Finally, there will be a teacher training day on **Monday 27 April**. Work will be set for students to complete in Google Classrooms, but teachers will not be available online during this day.

Yours sincerely,



Gerard McKenna  
HEADTEACHER

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