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where everyone can succeed



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Dear Students, Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well and we continue to remember in our thoughts and prayers anyone suffering as a result of COVID-19. Today we begin the summer term. The school remains open for children of critical workers or vulnerable children who cannot be safely looked after at home. Students in years 7-10 and 12 will begin again their on-line lessons. I am grateful to staff for their on-going work from home in difficult circumstances.

As I mentioned in my last letter just before the Easter holidays, teachers will now also begin providing work and guidance for year 11s intending to pursue A levels when school reopens, as well as potential work and guidance for year 13s who intend to progress to higher education. **Before the end of this first week back, therefore, we will send to students in both year groups a more detailed guidance letter and an introductory study skills booklet to work through next week will be uploaded onto the school website. Thereafter, from the week beginning 4th May, year 11s can expect subject specific work to be made available on a weekly basis and year 13s, similarly, can expect guidance regarding researching their degree courses, followed by subject specific advice and guidance.**

Please note that, at this point, there is no information from government or exam boards about the timing or content of a potential 'autumn exam series', whether GCSE or A level. This is because it is not known when schools will reopen. Likewise, to plan autumn exams, the impact on learning from this on-going period of school closures will need to be factored in to timing and content of such exams. We are therefore unable to provide specific teaching material for autumn exams but will of course respond in due course. Please note, however, that the intended purpose of a potential 'autumn exams series' is just to cater for students who are unhappy with their calculated grades this summer. It is to be hoped that the overwhelming majority of our students, if not all, will be content with their calculated grades.

Finally, as I mentioned before Easter, we will now begin considering our response to the initial guidance from Ofqual about how schools should provide exam boards with centre assessed grades, including what evidence we will be evaluating. I am grateful that parents and students have not been writing in asking for details about how the school will do this. We need some time to consider this carefully. In due course, however, I will provide some broad information about this to all of you. In essence, the school will follow closely the guidance and instructions from the exams' regulator Ofqual about this. Once again, for reassurance, the initial Ofqual guidance made clear that schools do not need to ask students to complete any unfinished non-exam assessment (eg coursework) for the purposes of grading, nor do they need to be setting further homework or assessments for the purposes of grading.

Some students and parents may be interested in reading and responding to an Ofqual consultation about grading proposals for summer 2020 GCSEs and A levels, available on the Ofqual website. This runs from 15th April until 29th April, following which a final position on all of this will be published by Ofqual.

I hope everyone continues to stay safe and well and that the work we are soon to start providing to years 11 and 13 is helpful.

Best wishes.

J Foster - Headteacher