

Dear Students

As you will no doubt be aware the Education Secretary announced that GCSEs have been cancelled and schools closed to most students for the foreseeable future. Instead they are looking to alternative ways to make sure students get the qualifications they 'need' and 'deserve'. As yet we as a profession are unsure of what that actually means.

We know this is a worrying time and yesterday morning we spoke to Year 11s to try and reassure them, as best we can. We endeavoured to answer their questions even though we currently have very few answers, we let them see that we are not giving up on them and encouraged all of them not to lose sight of everything they have been working towards.

To help focus them on their futures we have given them the following key messages:

- That they need to continue to complete distance study as we do not know what will be used to replace GCSEs and they need to be prepared for every eventuality
- That this continued learning is important as it will stand them in good stead for the courses they will go to study next year
- That the GCSE journey (and prior) has not just been about exams – they need to acknowledge and value the vast array of skills that they have gained and honed along the way, all of which will help them succeed post 16 and beyond

Each student has been given a pack of resources and a guide sheet on how to self-study. This is also attached for your information. Staff continue to work hard and will be setting tasks every week. Students should log onto Doodle every day, unless they are unwell, and complete the assigned work. We have also provided hints on wellbeing and mental fitness which are equally crucial at this time.

As we wait for another update later this evening we will continue to do as much as we can to move forward; when more becomes clear we will share our plans with you and together we can continue to support our children in these uncertain times.

In the meantime, we want to acknowledge how incredibly proud we are of the way Year 11 have dealt with this turmoil in recent days and how they have listened, cared for each other and even looked after their teachers – they really have grown into incredible young adults. It is our intention to give the Class of 2020 a proper send off with a leavers assembly and yearbooks but as yet we cannot set a date but we shall.

We will write to you again as soon as we have further clarity on the next steps from the department of education

Your Sincerely

Ms P Banger  
Deputy Head