

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Further Government updates**

#### **School Closure Update**

As you are aware the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced the closure of schools to all students, apart from those who are children of key workers or those who are considered vulnerable.

This now means that during the Spring 1 half term:

1. School is closed to all students, except children of critical key workers or those who are considered vulnerable.
2. All other students should remain at home and access their learning through our MS Teams remote learning platform, where students will access a mixture of live lessons and independent study.

We are hoping that students will return to us after the February break and will keep you updated with any information we have over the course of the coming weeks.

#### **Year 11 Exams**

You will be aware that during the Prime Minister's address on Monday evening, it was explained that it is not possible, or fair, for all exams to go ahead as normal this summer. Today the Secretary of State for Education announced that all exam grades will be decided through teacher assessment. As a school, we will ensure that there is a robust and fair assessment process in place. We acknowledge the hard work, motivation and resilience that has been demonstrated by our Year 11 students. It will be important for them to continue on this trajectory to deliver the evidence which will support them in securing the very best grades.

The message to our students is to continue to work hard. It has been an incredibly unfair road for our Year 11 students and what we need to ensure is that they do not worry, continue to focus, dig deep, trust their teachers and engage fully in their remote learning programme. They have nothing to lose, everything to gain and we will support them through this.

There are some vocational exams scheduled for the next two weeks that will continue. We will contact parents individually if this applies to your child.

#### **Distance learning and support**

Students have had an incredibly positive start to their distance learning, and we want to say well done to them. As to be expected when delivering such a huge remote learning programme, there will be some technical difficulties which we will continue to work through. We really appreciate your patience and understanding with this.

To further support the use of MS Teams, we wanted to draw your attention to where support materials can be found on our website. This contains everything you need to know for successful distance learning:

<https://www.chorltonhigh.manchester.sch.uk/chs-distance-learning/distance-learning-introduction-and-routine/using-microsoft-office-365>.

## **Communication moving forward**

Due to school closure, we will continue to write to you each Friday with any updates (and will try to ensure these letters are concise). Our Friday letter will be fully summarised on the Parent Noticeboard page on the school website (where it can also be translated).

This week's communication has been unusually high due to the circumstances, but it will reduce next week.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support and if you require any further support from the school, please contact us via the Admin email or on 0161 882 1150.

Stay safe and well,  
Chorlton High School