

18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

**RE: Year 11 and exam preparation**

Apologies for more emails. However I wanted to reiterate some thoughts around your child being in year 11, waiting for an exam season and reassure you about what we are doing.

This is clearly a time of stress for everyone, but we know that year 11 have been particularly anxious. We have tried to reassure them by speaking to them, keeping year 11 lessons going and ensuring they have been prioritised with work on-line. Whilst arrangements for the exams are a major concern, they need to be put in the context of a global pandemic, which is impacting the lives of billions of people around the world.

There has been no statement from the exam boards or central government about exams. Therefore, we continue to prepare our entries but with a focus on ensuring the environment in which they are sat does not put anyone at risk. We will look to implement increased cleaning, increased spacing between desks and use of many different spaces. In short, if the exams are to proceed, we will do our best to make it work operationally.

However, there are issues around potential student illness that will need to be decided centrally. There are existing measures around "special considerations" but this year will require a different approach. In reality, **these** are uncertain times and there are many different opinions in the press about what "might" happen. **We are aware of an upcoming Art exam and do not want to take any action that might disadvantage our students. Therefore, we will update parents of students taking Art later this week.**

As we cannot work with guesswork, the one thing I can assure you is that your children have been prepared academically for whatever the next few months bring. We know our students are fantastic ambassadors for young people generally and that our history suggests that students at LSA will have been taught well over the last five years. We need to trust in track record of students succeeding. We also have excellent relationships with the post 16 providers, so will champion our students and ensure they are able to access the next stage of their education.

Finally, in Ms Astley-Jones we have an experienced Exams Manager who is considering every eventuality and is a genuine expert in this field.

Year 11 have been brilliant over the last few days and an absolute credit. Lessons have continued, despite the anxiety and many have offered to help if the school needed anything. They are making a difficult job for teachers, much easier. We recognise their worries but are doing everything we can to settle them.

As we find out more, we will filter any national announcements and let parents know of any developments.

Please keep safe and thank you again for your support and understanding.



Ray Baker  
Headteacher