

19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent,

Thank you for your support over the recent days. Things have moved even quicker than we expected, with the announcement last night that the examination season for year 11 will not take place this summer. Whilst there is still so much uncertainty, we would ask students to keep open to the idea of learning.

Everything I wrote yesterday still stands. This horrible situation must not detract from a wonderful group of young people, who we know are ready to succeed in life. We wish we could follow our well-trodden path over the next few weeks, but this cannot happen. Knowing that our students are some of the most successful in Lancashire over previous years, they can have confidence that they are well prepared for whatever format the future qualifications may take. I sincerely believe this.

We have made the decision that year 11 will finish their term at 1pm today, Thursday 19th March. We will arrange an assembly for the year group and an opportunity for them to enjoy a scaled back celebration. They deserve so much more, but we will make it as special as we can. They will then be allowed to leave the site and make their way home (*if the early closure causes issues, then we can supervise students until 3pm*)

It is our intention to stay in communication and we would encourage students to continue working through any work set on-line. Despite how we have been focused on exams in recent years, school is about learning in the wider sense. Whether we sit an exam or not shouldn't dictate what we do. As we keep saying, our students are so much "more than grades."

We will spend time developing resources and links to areas related to careers and transition and will also ensure that there is access to materials that allow students to keep learning and be prepared for the next stage of their education.

This enforced closure could be an opportunity for students to revisit all areas in greater depth, understand more and spark new areas of interest and intrigue.

There will be online access to a library of books (details to follow) and according to advice this morning, we should still be able to exercise regularly. If students are able to have recapped on their previous learning, increased the number of books they have read and maintained their fitness, they will be ready for whatever the summer demands.

We will also ensure that when we return to a more normal world, we will arrange some events to bring year 11 together to celebrate their time at LSA, remembering and celebrating the first, fantastic 14 terms. I intend to write to families regularly, and hope your child knows how much we value their input into school.

As the government give us more details about the examination arrangements, we will share with parents and ensure that we all have the most up to date information.

Thank you again for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely,



Ray Baker  
Headteacher