



6th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are all keeping well and safe in these unprecedented times.

Since closing the Academy on 20th March, we have been working hard to provide work, guidance and wellbeing advice to our students. There has been a lot to adjust and to think about and I would like to thank you all for your patience, support and kind words, of which we have received many.

I hope you have found your child has had plenty of work to do and has been able to access it through Show My Homework. We know that sometimes it will not be possible for students to complete the same amount of work they would do during a normal school day and I have written to all students today to tell them not to worry about this. Their mental health and wellbeing must always come first and we are adjusting our systems for tracking the completion of work to ensure this is always the priority. Please can you encourage them to access their school emails regularly as this is the main method we are using to send out all sorts of messages (especially from tutors who will be keeping in touch weekly). Please also note that staff who may need to contact home will probably be doing so from a withheld number. I have also thanked our young people for their service and sacrifice by staying at home. This must be incredibly difficult for students of secondary school age and I am sure you will be as proud of them as we are for the way they are managing.

For parents and carers of students in Year 11 and 13, we are working hard as a school to prepare centre assessed grades to be sent to exam boards at the start of next month. Chris Vallance and his team have been working tirelessly on this to ensure we follow all guidelines and complete the work in the fairest and most effective way possible. The government have said that the results must be kept confidential as you would expect and will then be made available in the usual way on the planned results days in August (13th August for Year 13, 20th August for Year 11). Please can you encourage students in these year groups to keep completing work set so they are in good habits for when they begin any new courses in the future.

As you would expect our thoughts are also turning to the process of reopening, which will hopefully take place before the end of the school year. You will probably be aware that this is expected to be a gradual process and I also expect that we will be instructed on when to do this and for which year groups. We will be taking all government advice on board and working hard to make suitable arrangements in the background. We will keep you as up to date as possible via the usual methods.

All staff at the Academy are missing our students and I hope you managed to see the 'Happy' YouTube video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLjAzECyGVY> we put together last week to convey this message. I hope it put a smile on their faces, even if they did find it very 'cringy' as my son would say!

Thanks again for your continued support. Take care and hope to see you all soon.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Lisa McVeigh'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'L'.

Lisa McVeigh
Principal