

23 March 2020

Dear Pupils,

I know that this is a worrying and emotional time for you all with the uncertainty over how your GCSE grades will be determined and the very sudden way in which we finished school on Friday. I just wanted to reiterate what I said in the assembly on Friday, the staff and I are incredibly proud of you all and the fantastic young people you have grown in to during your time with us, you are all special, precious and talented individuals who are destined to make our world a better place.

As this is going to be a prolonged absence and many of you will be starting 'A' level, or equivalent, courses in September, could I urge you to keep working on the GCSE work set by your teachers. It is still unclear exactly how the government wish teachers to make their decisions on allocating final GCSE grades, other than:-

*"The calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence including, for example, non-exam assessment and mock results, and the approach will be standardised between schools and colleges."*  
**Government update on Friday 20 March 2020**

How this national standardisation process will take place has not yet been announced. As soon as there is clarity on how your final grades will be determined, we will of course be in touch with you.

Please do not treat this uncertain time as a holiday without continuing your GCSE work. It is a long time between now and September and I do not want you to be put at a disadvantage by not continuing your work. By doing this you will be prepared for the rigours of A level, or equivalent, work and it will stand you in good stead to bridge the time between now and then.

I would also like to reassure you all that we will get together again at some point to be able to say our goodbyes properly. I am still very hopeful that prom will go ahead and as I told you last week, if there is any way it can go ahead, it will. If we need to arrange something because we are told we cannot hold it on the 3 July 2020, we will arrange something for later in the summer. Either way, we are absolutely determined that we will celebrate your 5 years at school at some point.

In these strange and uncertain times, please try to remain positive and retain the tremendous generosity of spirit you have shown us over the last 5 years.

Look after yourselves and God bless.



**M J DUMICAN**  
Headteacher