

12 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

First of all I would like to praise the efforts of your children since September, whether they have been in school or working from home, they have been a credit to you.

As you know, we had a number of positive COVID cases in the year group last term which led to a considerable number of days where pupils had to work from home whilst self-isolating. Nevertheless, the pupils certainly rose to this challenge. During this next phase of remote learning I am relying upon an equally impressive response. If your child is experiencing any difficulties please let us know if there is anything we can do to support them with remote learning through the [office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk](mailto:office@arrowsmith.wigan.sch.uk) email address and we will do our best to help.

Following the Government's announcement last week that the summer examinations are cancelled in favour of Assessed Grades from schools, I have received a few questions about what this actually means. It is a cause of great frustration that I cannot answer this question as, at this stage, you know as much as I do from what is reported in the media. At the moment OFQUAL are consulting on what format the assessed grades should take. Nothing will be decided until this guidance is published and even then we will need to decide what our response as a school will be to that guidance. We must all now wait until this process has completed and then as soon as I possibly can, I will update you with our plans.

With this incredible level of uncertainty we feel it is best to continue with our current schemes of work and we will continue to deliver them to the best of our ability. I know that the Year 11 pupils are worried about the prospect of continuing with their studies whilst revising for the planned Trial examinations coming up after February half term. Whilst Trial examinations may well still go ahead, **they will not go ahead on the planned dates** at the end of February. If the guidance dictates that it would be sensible to sit the Trial examinations we will schedule them in a way that would give the pupils the best possible chance of fulfilling their potential.

The term I have been using is that we are really in a 'holding position' until we know the result of the consultation and I think this is a good way of thinking about the situation we find ourselves in. I know this is a very stressful time for your children and if there is anything we can do from a pastoral perspective please contact Mr Halliwell and we will do our best to help.

As soon as I am in a position to, I will write to you again with our plan going forward and with a new date for the Year 11 Parents' Evening.

Thank you for your patience, your understanding and your support, it is always greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully



**M J DUMICAN**  
Headteacher