

23 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Last week was a traumatic and emotional time for many of your sons or daughters. The build up to the GCSE season had started almost as soon as Year 11 began and to have it all so abruptly halted was extremely difficult for them and you. After the announcement on Wednesday evening that schools would close for all but vulnerable and key worker children by Friday and that GCSE exams would be cancelled presented the most challenging 36 hours of my career so far.

I feel blessed to work in a school where all the staff rallied round to ensure everything that was needed to be put in place was ready by the time we closed on Friday. That we were able to finish the week in the best way possible for our Y11 pupils and that we were ready to open our doors to pupils who need to be with us for the foreseeable future today is testimony to the sheer dedication and hard work of the staff in our school.

I wanted to tell you how incredibly proud the staff and I are of our wonderful Y11 cohort. Every single pupil in Year 11 is a special, precious and talented individual who are destined to make our world a better place.

I also wanted to tell you that I was able to close the assembly on Friday by telling them all how incredibly proud we are of them as a whole school community. We have shared their successes and failures, good times and bad times, friendships and falling outs, generosity and kindness and have really enjoyed their company, seeing them mature into the fantastic young people they are today. It is a privilege to have seen them grow into incredible young people in our 'Eddies' family and I wanted to thank you for trusting us with their care over the last 5 years. I will send them an email today reassuring them that we will all get the chance to gather again at some point.

As this is going to be a prolonged absence and many of them will be starting 'A' level courses in September, could I urge you to keep them working on the GCSE work set by their teachers, which will stand them in good stead to bridge the time between now and the start of their 'A' level work.

On Friday I kept saying this is an 'au revoir' rather than 'goodbye' as I am certain we will all gather again before they move to the next stage in their lives.

I would like to say a heart-felt thank you to the parents who sent me such lovely emails on Friday thanking me and the staff for all of our efforts over the years and/or on Friday. Your support and thanks have always been greatly appreciated.

I hope and pray that you are all safe and well during the ongoing crisis and that we will all get through this with a sense of positivity and generosity of spirit.

Kindest regards



**M J DUMICAN**  
Headteacher