



January 14th 2021

Dear Parents and Year 11 Students,

GCSEs and Practice Exams

We know that this must be a very testing time to be a Year 11 student with many questions about what will happen with the awarding of GCSE grades.

We had scheduled to hold our internal practice examinations week commencing 25th January and these have now been postponed. As and when we know more about the date and conditions for a return to school, we will consider all of the possible alternatives, which may or may not include another set of practice examinations. The uncertainty of this is obviously unhelpful, but we want to be absolutely sure we focus our students' effort on where it will be most beneficial.

Whatever the next few months may bring, in order to allow adequate preparation for their return to school and for the final weeks of their GCSE courses, we will give students calm, well informed and timely advice as and when it comes to us as a firm plan.

In the meantime, ClassCharts study and subsequent tasks, as directed by their teacher, must be their priority.

This last weekend, there has been a lot of unhelpful 'noise' in the national press and on social media about the exams, their structure, who will mark them and so much more. For all of us involved in education, either as students, parents or professionals, we have to stress that this is all speculation and must be put to one side.

In time (and as yet we do not know when), we will get full guidance from the exam regulator Ofqual and only then will we know the assessment framework, process and the expectations of students and school staff around these.

With this in mind, we will host a Year 11 assembly on Monday 18th January at 9.00am to address some of the students' concerns. Students should raise these prior to the assembly by completing the 'Google Form' sent to them through Classcharts.

As parents, please be assured and do stress to your son/daughter that we will do everything we can to support Year 11 students in the weeks and months to come and, as always, please don't hesitate to get in touch, particularly if they are struggling. To ensure that we can produce an effective FAQ document for parents, we are inviting questions to be raised through this link [here](#).

Outstanding education at the heart of the community

Finally, please also strongly encourage your son/daughter to engage fully in the personal mentor calls that have started this week. We believe they will be extremely beneficial moving forward.

Kindest regards,

M Cunniffe

Head of School
Tarleton Academy