



Victory Park Academy
Wentworth Road
Southend on Sea
SS2 5LG

Tel: 01702 904644

Head Teacher: Mr Aspel

7th January 2021.

Dear Parents/Carers,

Victory Park Academy are writing to you about the announcement made by the Prime Minister regarding this summer's GCSE schedule. We understand that this news will be unsettling and that the uncertainty over what will happen with pupils' GCSE grades will be causing significant worry.

All schools, along with the rest of the country were informed of this decision at the same time. The only further guidance we have received is that the DfE feels that *'in the current circumstances we do not think it is possible for exams to go ahead fairly in the summer. The Secretary of State will be asking Ofqual to consult rapidly on the approach for alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly'*

At the moment we are waiting to find out if there will be any assessed components of the GCSE as pupils will most likely return to school before the end of the spring term.

In light of the above I would like to offer some advice and reassurance at this time to ensure we are as well prepared as we can be for whatever form the GCSE judgements may take.

Remote learning will take place every day following the timetable all pupils have received along with their work packs. It is essential that pupils log into every lesson and complete all work set to the best of their ability because if we are asked to provide teacher assessed grades, we will need to base these on all available evidence which will include the following:

- **Mock exam papers**
- **Attitude to learning and home learning in each subject**
- **Engagement with remote learning (to include attendance to sessions).**

It is really important that your child logs into Google Classroom and takes part in live lessons. This is because your child will have a greater chance of gaining a higher GCSE grade, as attendance is part of the teacher assessment.

There may well be other criteria that the DfE will expect us to apply and, if this is the case, we will share this information with you as soon as we receive it.

In addition, our pupil rewards will be moved online so every time your child joins a live lesson, they will be rewarded points towards vouchers.

Finally, please do not become disheartened by the current situation. We have been so impressed with pupils' attitude and the maturity shown since the return to school in September. We know that the uncertainty about what will happen is concerning for us all but we are confident we will work together to ensure all pupils will achieve the GCSE grades they deserve and pursue their future ambitions.

We will endeavour to keep you updated with changes as and when they happen. Once again thank you for your support and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Aspel', written in a cursive style.

Mr Aspel

Headteacher