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17th April 2020

Dear Sixth Form Parents/Carers and Students

I am writing to remind you that the summer term commences for students on **Monday 20th April**. The school continues to be 'closed' to most students, but we will be setting work and keeping in touch as best we can. We know that it can be difficult motivating your children to complete the work set and we very much appreciate your efforts and support.

We do not yet know when school will re-open. There has been some media speculation, but we believe it will be some time before schools start to re-open, and even then it will be a gradual process. We will let you know as soon as we have more information.

In the meantime, we have been working over Easter to plan for the coming term as a 'virtual school'. This letter and the attached, updated guidance set out our expectations for students and what they can expect from us. This situation is far from ideal, so we must all continue to just do our best. Thank you for your patience whilst we have adjusted to this new way of working.

Y12 from 20th April

From Monday 20th April, Y12 will follow a slightly simpler timetable structure to support their ability to manage their time and also get feedback on their work (see below).

Monday to Thursday will be set approximately 5 hours' work per subject (less for Core Maths). This will be set on a Monday for them to allocate their time during the week. On Fridays they will have submission deadlines for the work done in the week and we also hope to be able to set up more interactive forums as the weeks progress. In addition, on Fridays, there is time for picking up the enrichment ideas sent out in the Monday morning Newsletter and also in the Friday Careers Bulletin. We would also expect tutors to be getting in touch on Fridays with things related to UCAS, careers, personal statements and future destinations.

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	Option A			Forums		Option A			Forums
	Option B			Enrichment		Option B			Enrichment
	Option C			Submit		Option C			Submit

Year 13

Year 13 will finish their A Level courses on **7 May**. If students would like to present a portfolio of work for internal accreditation, they will be able to do so and should send it to their respective teachers.

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Update on the awarding of grades for Year 12 and 13

Further to the information sent out on 7th April, there has been little more information from Ofqual.

For those students in Y11, Y12 and Y13, we will be spending the next few weeks looking at their performance over the length and breadth of their examination courses and preparing to recommend grades to the exam boards. Further advice from Ofqual states that these grades should be based on 'a holistic professional judgement, balancing the different sources of evidence'.

I know there has been some anxiety over what evidence will be used; I can assure you that we will be following the guidance that it is 'a realistic judgement of the grade each student would have been most likely to get if they had taken their exam(s) ...this summer.' We will be working with departments on a rigorous and fair process before meeting the submission deadline at the end of May.

Ofqual has stated that schools cannot share the recommended grades with students or parents. They have also issued a firm warning to parents that they must not attempt to influence this process, and that doing so may be considered as malpractice. We will keep you informed about how this process will be carried out but please do not contact teachers about this as they have been instructed to not discuss this matter.

It has been confirmed that student grades will be released on the dates in the summer scheduled for exam results to be distributed. We will let you know more about how these grades will be released in due course.

Yours sincerely

Emma White

Head of Sixth Form

Further information

A YouTube video on hand washing can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bQCP7waTRWU&feature=youtu.be&safe=true>

More information about the virus and how to prevent its spread can be found at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

More information about how to self-isolate can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-people-with-confirmed-or-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>