

January 2021

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

We hope that this letter finds you all safe and well. As we approach the end of the half term, we wanted to touch base and provide an update for everyone on how things are going with remote learning as well as looking ahead to the next half term.

Firstly, we would like to commend our Year 13 students on their excellent attitude towards their studies in such difficult circumstances. Attendance and engagement with online learning has, on the whole, been excellent and many staff have commented on how impressed they have been with Year 13. Well done to all of you for this!

The consultation on how examination results are going to be awarded this year ended on 29th January. We are therefore now awaiting the outcome of this to provide further guidance. Once this is published, it is likely that we will still need to wait a little longer for details of how each examination board will implement the actions for both A-level and BTEC qualifications. We are very grateful for your continued patience on this matter.

We fully appreciate that uncertainty over how courses will be assessed is the main cause of anxiety amongst students in their examination years, however, rest-assured that we will keep you updated every step of the way. For now though, all options remain open and, from our point of view, the best thing that every single Year 13 student can do is to continue working hard and engage with all online learning. That way, we are all prepared for whatever lies ahead.

As you will be aware, Year 13 reports are scheduled to be sent out on February 26th. Given the current situation, we have decided not to go ahead with completing and sending out these reports. This is ultimately because we do not currently know the outcome of the consultation for final assessment and it would therefore be difficult to outline targets for improvement when we don't yet know which parts of each course could potentially be assessed and to what extent these assessments could account for final grades. The fact that the mock examinations didn't take place is also a factor as this would have been the key piece of information to provide feedback on through the reports.

The fact that the Year 13 Parents' Evening took place just before the Christmas break means that everyone has reasonably up-to-date information regarding progress and performance so far in Year 13 in order to inform further improvement. We will of course update you on plans for further assessment and feedback opportunities as we re-plan things once the way ahead is clearer.

If you or your child require any support, please direct subject specific questions to subject teachers, or more general queries to the Sixth Form team. We fully appreciate how difficult circumstances are currently and we are here for each and every one of our students. Try to enjoy a well-earned break over half-term and keep up the fantastic work that you are doing.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Cain
Deputy Headteacher

Mr R Giles
Head of Sixth Form