

*"Leaders, staff and governors share a passionate commitment to raise the aspirations and achievement of all the students who attend the school."
Ofsted*

Thursday 9th April 2020



Dear Year 11,

Firstly, I hope that you and your family are safe and well. In such a challenging set of circumstances for you, it is really important that you try and maintain a healthy routine, including regular exercise. Your well-being is of paramount importance during this difficult and what must be an uncertain time for you all.

I wanted to write to you all today to reassure you that your teachers are working hard to support you in your current situation. As you will have heard, on Friday 3rd April, Ofqual published its guidance to schools on how to award grades to Year 11 students. We have been asked to send the exam boards two pieces of information for each of your subjects, based on what they know about your work and achievements:

- 1) the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned.
- 2) within each subject, the order of students, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used to standardise judgements. So for example:
if there are 100 students studying subject X and 40 students are awarded a grade 4, staff will be asked to rank them 1-40, based on how secure that grade is for each student.

So this is where I can reassure you. We have been asked to consider a range of evidence over a period of time. So for example this could include your classwork and homework; your results in assignments and assessments; any mock exams; any coursework you might have done and your general progress during your course. This will not just be based on your last mock exam paper (synoptic exam 2) but a range of information that your teachers know about you. That is one of the great things about staff at President Kennedy School, they know their students very well and what they are capable of achieving, and we have gathered this information over a long period of time.

We have been asked to submit this information to exam boards by 29th May 2020 and unfortunately the guidance from Ofqual means that **teachers are unable to discuss grades with individual students and therefore we respectfully ask that students and families do not ask teachers for this information.** In the interests of fairness to all students, the exam boards will standardise grades across the country and therefore may adjust some grades either upwards or downwards, using a model being developed by Ofqual. This is normal and happens to most schools every year. For vocational qualifications (Btec subjects) schools are still awaiting confirmation about the completion of coursework. You should continue to complete assignments that were started before the school closed. If you are unsure about what you need to do, then please contact your specific subject teachers.



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So what do you do in the meantime? You need to stay healthy as I have mentioned above but you also need to keep working through your subject materials and consolidate what you have learned so far – this means learn it until it sticks! Also try and build on some of your knowledge by researching and reading more about some of your topics. Go onto to the exam boards of the subjects you are interested in studying next year and read what the course is about. Why not research about future pathways to universities and different careers. Make sure though that this involves a range of subjects and pathways to keep your options open. After Easter we will have a KS4-KS5 transition pack ready for you, which will guide you through subjects and future pathways and expectations.

Finally, some good news regarding the Year 11 Prom. This has been provisionally booked for 20th August 2020 at the Royal Court. Obviously we will have to keep monitoring Government advice on social distancing measures that might still be in place and we will keep you posted. We will try our best to support this wonderful event – you certainly deserve it!

In the meantime, please contact us if you require further information about how we may help and support you.

Please stay safe and take care.



Mr Clayton

Headteacher