

"Leaders, staff and governors share a passionate commitment to raise the aspirations and achievement of all the students who attend the school."
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Friday 8th May 2020

Dear Year 11,



I can't believe that it has been just over 6 weeks since I saw you all last, did my last assembly and signed shirts with good wishes and walked with you to the school gates. I do hope that you and your family are in good health and have adjusted to what people are calling the 'new normal'. Nothing about it feels normal, I am sure.

In my last letter, I talked about the importance of maintaining a healthy routine and I hope you are attempting to keep some structure to your day. Your physical, mental and emotional well-being needs looking after in these strange circumstances and I hope that you are exploring new ways of nurturing all of these important aspects of health. I don't know about you but I have struggled some days, far more now than when I had to get up really early for a normal day at school.

However, it is during these challenging times that we find out a little bit more about ourselves and our ability to cope and adapt. I am sure that has been the case for all of us, including your parents. I talk to staff about the same things on a daily basis, as like many families they are trying to cope with home schooling, working from home and looking after family members. I am also hearing some amazing stories of community spirit and individual fortitude and how kind and generous humankind can be. It is these stories that bring hope to us all and reassure us that we will move forward with our lives.

It is very important that you all feel reassured about how hard teachers are still working to submit your centre-assessed grade. This is the grade they believe you were most likely to get if teaching, learning and exams had happened as planned. Once this has been completed in the next two weeks, staff will then rank within each subject, the order of students, by performance, for each grade. This information will be used by exam boards to standardise judgements and therefore exam boards may adjust some grades either upwards or downwards; we have no control over that part of the process. This is normal and happens to most schools every year. For vocational qualifications (Btec subjects) all schools are still awaiting confirmation about the completion of coursework and how these grades will be submitted. 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 my last letter I encouraged you to use this time wisely and to research the subjects that you would like to study next year and future pathways. This is really important to feel fully informed of the desired pathways



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over the next few years. It is really important for you to still plan for your future and we are still here to help you. Also, on Monday there will be a new Year 11 College site under the key documents section of the website which will host a new KS4-5 Transition Pack, important careers information and a weekly newsletter from your Year 11 college team with activities and well-being considerations.

As you know we are still trying go ahead with the Year 11 Prom. This has been provisionally booked for **20th August 2020** at the Royal Court. This is obviously subject to Government advice but... fingers crossed! As you might already know this will also be your **Year 11 Grades Day** and Mr Sheridan and Mr Fogarty will be issuing more information about this in their forthcoming newsletters.

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