

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

25th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,



I hope that this letter finds you all in good health.

I am writing to you today with several important updates and requests as promised in my letter at the start of this term.

Please note that we are still open for children of key workers and children deemed vulnerable.

Please continue to keep us informed if your child has tested positive or is required to self-isolate following close contact with a positive case.

Exams

As you are aware, the Government announced recently that GCSE and A Level examinations will not go ahead this year and that teacher assessed grades will be awarded instead. This week Ofqual (the exams regulator) has published consultation about how these teacher assessed grades may be generated. Below is a link to this consultation should you wish to read it.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-how-gcse-as-and-a-level-grades-should-be-awarded-in-summer-2021>

Some of the main points of the consultation are:

- A teacher's final judgement on a student's grade ought to be as late as possible in the academic year to maximise remaining teaching time and ensure students are motivated to remain engaged in education.
- DfE and Ofqual should seek ways to support teachers to assess their students in a fair and consistent fashion. A breadth of evidence should inform teachers' judgements, and the provision training and guidance will support teachers to reach their assessment of a student's deserved grade. This will be drawn out in the consultation.
- The Secretary of State has asked Ofqual to explore the possibility of providing externally set tasks or papers, in order that teachers can draw on this resource to support their assessments of students. He says that the consultation should seek views on what broader evidence should determine a teacher's assessment of a student's grade and whether we should require or recommend the use of the externally set tasks or papers.
- The Secretary of State is clear that additional burdens for teachers and schools created by this need for evidence should be minimised.



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

- He sets out his view that the consultation should set out proposals which allow students to be assessed based on what they have learnt, rather than against content they have not had a chance to study.
- Schools and trusts should undertake quality assurance of their teachers' assessments and provide reassurance to the exam boards. DfE and Ofqual should provide training and guidance to support that, and there should also be external checks in place to support fairness and consistency between different institutions and to avoid centres proposing anomalous grades. However, it is the Secretary of State's view that changes to grades as a result of the external quality assurance process should be the exception.

The consultation will be open for two weeks and then the Department for Education will confirm how the process will operate this year. Once we have this clarity, I will write to you again to confirm how we will work to ensure students in Years 11 and 13 receive the grades that all their hard work deserves. In the meantime, please rest assured that we will continue to prepare Year 11 and 13 students as we would under normal circumstances. We remain determined to ensure that our students can progress successfully to the next stage of their education.

Learning

The term has started well from a learning point of view as staff and students get used to this very different way of working. Nothing quite replaces students being in classrooms with their teachers but all who are engaged are working well together to ensure that high quality learning continues during this period of national lockdown. At present there are still students who have not engaged with their lessons since the start of the term. It is vital that **all** students log into their daily tutor registration and their lessons so please can I urge all parents to encourage students to do this every day so that vital learning and positive routines can continue. It is so important during this period that we maintain as much normality as we possibly can; please do get in touch with us if we can be of any help to support you with this. I include a link below to our website page which details our remote learning programme with some answers to frequently asked questions.

<https://www.pks.coventry.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=6286&type=pdf>

PCD

Our annual Parent Consultation Day this year will take place across 2 days: Thursday 28th and Friday 29th January. I know that letters have gone out to parents requesting appointment times. I do think it more important than ever this year that we come together to discuss with you the progress of your sons and daughters. Your appointment will provide not only an opportunity to do this but also for us to be alerted to any problems students may be having with remote learning and perhaps how we can support you further at this time. We will also be able to offer parents and carers some tips on how you can support students working from home. Please can I remind you that there will be no live lessons across these two days. Teachers will provide guidance to students



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

on how to use these two days to consolidate and reflect on existing learning and content covered so far.

Please do join in on either of these two days – we will look forward to seeing you.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding working at home, please email: info@pks.coventry.sch.uk where your query will be passed onto the relevant member of staff.

If you have any concerns about ICT or are struggling to 'join TEAMS' then please email ICTSupport@pks.coventry.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support and please stay safe and healthy.

Kindest regards



Mr Clayton
Headteacher

