



5 January 2021

CK/GF/student letter introduction

Dear Post-16 Students

I sincerely hope you are all well and are not feeling too stressed by last night's announcement. I am delighted to be the new Vice Principal in charge of Sixth Form but am very sorry that my first communication with you has to be by letter, rather than in person. Given the announcement last night, I thought it was very important that I contact you regarding the current information we have and the implications of the new lockdown guidance.

Current information that we have is:

- The school has moved to remote learning until at least the 22nd February.
- Exams will not take place in their current form; this does not mean a form of assessment will not take place therefore continue to study as normal. The Prime Minister said, *'In the circumstances, we do not think it is possible for **all** exams in the summer to go ahead as planned. We will accordingly be working with Ofqual to consult rapidly to put in place alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly.'*
- **BTEC exams scheduled for this week and next WILL GO AHEAD.** Please contact me if you have any questions about this. If you are sitting one of these exams, please report to the side gate at 8.15am on the relevant day.

At this stage, we do not know anything further about the summer assessments but will communicate this information with you as soon as it becomes available. Please keep an eye on our social media pages and the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Common Room in Google, as we will update these as information comes to hand.

While you are working remotely, all of your lessons will be live unless your teacher is ill or unavailable for some other reason. If this is the case, you will be informed via your Google classroom and work will be set for you. You are expected to attend all of your remote lessons in line with your normal school timetable and submit all classwork and assessments, just as you would if you were in school. Your teachers will be taking registers and these will be monitored by your Head of Year. Unexplained absences will be followed up and sanctioned just as they would be if you were in school. You are also expected to attend form time at 8.40am each morning to check in with your tutor. This is important so we know you are okay and can pass on any messages and information.

I completely understand how challenging this is for all of you, especially those of you due to take exams this year, but please be assured that we will do everything in our power to ensure you get the education and the outcomes you deserve. It is your responsibility to demonstrate your resilience and remain relentless and aspirational. I know this will not be easy and encourage you to let us know if you are struggling in any way at all, whether this is with resources, motivation or your mental health. The Study Supervisors will be contacting you regularly and we are here to help. I have also included a list of external agencies that you may find useful.

Please continue to attend all of your timetabled lessons, work hard and ensure you look after yourselves. We are here for you if you need us.

Yours sincerely

Ms G. Fair  
Vice Principal – Responsibility for KS5