



5 January 2021

CK/GF/Letter Introduction –parents

Dear Parent/Carer

I sincerely hope you are all well and are not feeling too stressed by last night's announcement. I am delighted to introduce myself as the new Vice Principal in charge of the Sixth Form at Shirley High School. I am writing to you this morning to share the current information we have about the implications of the new lockdown guidance.

What we currently know 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 and therefore students must 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 your son or daughter is sitting one of these exams, please ask them to 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 as we will update these as information comes to hand.

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

I completely understand how challenging this situation is for everyone, especially the students due to take exams this year, but please be assured that we will do everything in our power to ensure students achieve the outcomes they deserve. I know there will be many challenges for students and their families over coming weeks and encourage you to let us know if there is anything at all you need. I have also included a list of external agencies that you may find useful.

Please do not hesitate to contact me on fair@shirley.croydon.sch.uk if you have any question, concerns or need help to support your son or daughter's remote learning. We are here for you if you need us.

Yours sincerely

Ms G. Fair
Vice Principal-Responsibility KS5