
Rob Pavey, Headteacher

4 January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students of all Years,

You will probably have heard the news from Boris Johnson's announcement at 8 o'clock tonight: all schools will be doing remote learning only until February half term, and this summer's exams are cancelled.

School remains open for any students that need it, whether for key workers, vulnerable students or those with connectivity difficulties. Arrangements will be made for families whose children qualify for Free School Meals; I imagine it will be an online voucher system again, as over the Christmas holiday, but until this is in place, food packages will be available from reception. Please email your year team to arrange for a laptop to be delivered if you do not have one you can use for the whole of the school day.

The arrangements we have been making for lateral flow tests are now irrelevant, although we might come back to it (hopefully in a more organised manner) as a way to get school open again in the second half of this term. I delayed the start of online learning for years other than 11 and 13 for two days in order to allow us to prepare for the mass testing and to adjust schemes of work. It now turns out that this was not necessary; I apologise for the loss of two days' learning, but we will stick with the plan to start lessons for all other year groups on Thursday, as I don't like making last minute changes if I can possibly avoid it, and colleagues will have been working to this schedule.

For students in Year 11 and Year 13, please do not panic. More detail will come out about how this summer's grades will be calculated over the coming months. At the minute, you can be sure of three things: first, we will look after your best interests; secondly, the system will be better and fairer than last summer; thirdly, all the work you do now will directly count towards your grade, without the stress and uncertainty of an exam. We will think about how Year 13 can do their mocks, and how Year 11 can do their second mock, and we will share plans with you in the coming weeks. I also assume that Year 10 will be granted a grade for RE, so the same applies to them: all the work you do now in RE will count towards your final grade.

I am not certain currently whether the Year 13 Sport BTEC exam will go ahead this week. We will clarify this as fast as we possibly can, and we will be in touch with the individuals concerned.

Many thanks for your patience and resilience: please do remember that school remains open for anyone who needs it.

Rob Pavey
Headteacher