

8th January 2021

Newsletter – week 16



Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you all managed to have some rest and peace over the holidays and that you are all keeping safe and well.

The last week has been a challenging one for all of us and it certainly has provided many challenges at home, at school and at work. We *were* looking forward to welcoming everyone back in a phased return as I had said in my previous correspondences, but sadly, it seems that we will not be welcoming all students back until after February half term at the earliest. As I have always done, I will continue to write to you and update you as soon as anything changes. For now we will continue with our planning and delivery of online learning.

The announcement on Monday evening that all schools would be closed from the following day took as all a little by surprise, but the confirmation that GCSE and A level exams are not taking place this year in the summer has brought us in line with the other Home Nations. We await final guidance from the DfE and Ofqual to confirm how schools should assess progress of our examination years and we hope that this will be in the next few weeks. In the meantime, our provisional plan is to continue teaching the courses that our students are studying with a formal full exam as what would normally have happened. Teacher assessment will also play a part in this so it is important that all students continue to engage in lessons and work hard in readiness for the end of year exams. If we follow suit of last year, each school will have to submit a final grade for every student in every subject and I am resolute in ensuring that all grades are awarded with integrity and professionalism ensuring that grades are what students would deserve.

I add a note of caution to this as we know everything may change. I was in Tier 2 the week before Christmas for example.

We have had a huge amount of positive feedback about our on line learning which has been greatly appreciated. A few of you have written with some frustrations but we have continued to work through these to make everything as easy and straightforward as possible. The week started with a bang when Show My Homework crashed across the country too! We knew there would be some teething problems so please keep in touch if you need help at all. We also feel that it is really important for our students to try and stay in a 'normal' school routine by joining tutor time and then the four lessons of the day. Your support in helping us with this is warmly welcomed.



POWERED BY



Principal: Russell Denial



Throughout these challenging times, we are aware that personal circumstances may have changed and that your son/daughter may now be eligible for free school meals. An application form is available on our school website for those families that need support and you will receive a voucher directly. Please do get in touch if you need any help with this.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and my special plea is that we all continue to follow the rules. The more we can do now, the better it will be for all of us in the coming months.

Yours faithfully,

Mr R Denial
Principal

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