

24 April 2020

Dear Parents,

### **End of Year Exams for Years 7 – 10**

The end of year exams for Years 7 – 10, which normally run in the week after the May half-term break, are one of the most significant assessment points in the academic year, and we have had a number of queries about whether these will take place this summer. After careful consideration of feedback from boys, parents and staff, we have decided not to hold end of year examinations this term. The additional pressure generated by exams on boys who have been out of their normal learning environment for several weeks, not to mention the great technical difficulty of running secure examinations under lockdown conditions, mean that we do not believe these exams would be appropriate from either an educational or a student well-being point of view. This will also be the case if we return to school before the summer holiday. If that happens, our priority will be to maximise face-to-face teaching time and ensure that our boys have the skills and knowledge they need to make a smooth progression to the next academic year. This does not mean there would be no testing during the summer term, only that we would not want to lose valuable time in the classroom by halting lessons to run a formal exam week.

In the absence of exams, we realise you may have questions about how your son's academic progress will be tracked and recorded between now and the end of the academic year. We would like to reassure you that our aim is to produce a set of grades for your son that will reflect his attainment and engagement with the work he has produced since the lockdown came into force. We are working on this at present and will update you once we have decided on the release date for grades.

Earlier this week, the Deputy Headmaster, Mr Wallace, wrote to the parents of boys in Years 7 to 9 to explain the School's plans for teaching over the summer term. Year 10 were not covered by these letters. As a year-group which is now firmly embarked on the GCSE course, our Year 10s have greatly impressed their teachers by their engagement with the work set online over the past few weeks. We believe it is vital that they stick to the course and make the best progress possible under the present circumstances. For this reason, it will be business as usual for Year 10, with few diversions from the GCSE specifications between now and the end of term.

Finally, while under lockdown, we have decided to stop setting homework for Years 7 – 9. Homework is an integral part of learning at the RGS, but with all our boys' work currently being produced at home – and mindful of the need for them to find a space away from school work, with their families or pursuing their own interests – we believe that this is the right thing to do at this time. Boys will still be asked to complete tasks set during the lesson time, but there will be no additional homework.

We thank you for your continued support and hope that you and your families are well.

Yours sincerely,

**James Eve**  
**Assistant Headteacher**