

3 April 2020

Dear Year 11 and Year 13,

As I take the lead on exams and assessment, the Headmaster has asked me to oversee the very unusual circumstances that face your year-groups this summer. In that capacity, I wanted to say a few words to you about the current situation and how we progress from here.

First of all, you should know how impressed all your teachers have been by the way you have reacted to the challenges you have been forced to face in these past two weeks. These are unprecedented times, not just for you but also for those around you. We knew you were exceptionally bright and gifted year-groups, and we were deeply disappointed on your behalf when it became clear that you would not get the chance to show what you were capable of in the public exam hall. The way you have responded to adversity, though - by engaging with online lessons, by seeking help and advice from your teachers, and by continuing to hand in work and assessments, has confirmed the very high opinion we hold of you.

As I'm sure you are aware, we are currently waiting for clear guidance from the government about how your final grades will be calculated. Whatever they decide, please know this: we have your back and will support you so that you come through this summer with the best possible grades and can continue on to the next stage of your education.

We have now reached the Easter holidays. This is usually a time when we ask you to up your work-rate and throw yourselves into the final preparations for the exams. This year, however, our instruction is different. Over the next two weeks we want you to step back from your studies and rest. Spend time with your families, reconnect - maybe electronically - with relatives and friends. Be kind and patient with yourself and those around you. Please do not feel the need to send any additional or unsolicited pieces of work to your teachers. In the majority of cases, you have done enough already. Our plan is to continue GCSE and A level teaching for the first two weeks of the summer term. During that time, your teachers will be able to run any final assessments. It will also enable you to revise material that may come in useful if, as the government have suggested, you have the chance to take an exam in the autumn.

Two weeks after the break, however, we will be moving on. For Year 11, this will mean starting preparations for A level; for Year 13, we want to give you the opportunity to take courses aimed at developing skills and knowledge that will stand you in good stead beyond the gates of the RGS. As you know, learning does not end in the classroom. Even in adversity, good things can happen, and we want you to make the best of a difficult situation, and to take something valuable away from it. We believe this is possible and we want to help you achieve it.

Our school is a great school, and the greatest part of our school is you, its pupils. Look after yourselves and your families, stay safe and well, and have a happy Easter.

**James Eve, Assistant
Headteacher**