

Dear student

You will no doubt be aware that yesterday it was announced that there would be no exams this summer. What we know at this stage is that qualifications WILL still be awarded. This means that exam boards will need us to tell them what grade we think you would have got and back this up with evidence. We just don't know how or what evidence they will require but it could include work already done as well as work you do from now on. For this reason, it is essential you keep working hard and understand the work you do from now on might help you achieve a higher grade. This applies to every qualification, not just those with exams, and every year group (as lower sixth students may need evidence for next year).

So, from Monday onwards as we move to working remotely, please go over and above with your efforts to submit the highest quality work – see it now as every piece of work you submit is effectively part of your final exam or assessment. The teachers will predict the best grades they can but only if they have sufficient evidence. This means those of you who are below target still have the opportunity that revision brings to increase your final grade. Effectively, the next few months will require you to work harder than ever before if you're serious about being successful.

I will update you again tomorrow when things are clearer but be reassured that your teachers are working hard to ensure you get the grades you deserve and that you need to secure university, apprenticeship or employment offers. Remember that we are closing because of the pandemic and that means that there will be times when you or the college staff may be unwell, caring for others and may not be available at certain times so be patient, be resilient and be determined to succeed. Most of all, help each other, check your classmates know what work is due to be done and if in doubt, email your teachers and tutors for help.

If you know you will struggle to work at home for any reason, please tell your teachers and tutor as we will see what we can do to support that. Use your time in between lessons today and tomorrow to make sure you have everything you need to be able to work from home next week. If you know any Year 11s, tell them not to worry and that their places here next year are safe whatever happens with GCSEs

Best wishes
Phil

Principal