



5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you following the announcement by the Prime Minister last night. Schools will now be closed to students in all year groups until February half term, with the exception of a small number of students who will attend, such as children of key workers.

Whilst we were all anticipating further restrictions across the country, we did not expect schools to be closed so suddenly and for such a long time. Headteacher's had no advance notice of this news, and in particular, the concerning news that public examinations will not go ahead as normal this summer. This is what the Prime Minister said:

"We recognise that this will mean it is not possible for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal. The Education Secretary will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements".

Unfortunately, this is all the information that we have been given and this will inevitably cause anxiety and uncertainty for students, parents and staff. We have not been given an indication of when further information will be available but we will update you as soon as we know. Students in Year 13 will no longer be able to sit their examinations in school next week and we are exploring alternative arrangements today and Mr Monaghan will provide guidance later on. I know that they will have been working hard preparing for these exams and this news is very frustrating for them.

It is essential that students in all year groups complete the remote learning set by teachers. Clear expectations have been given to all students via Google Classroom by the Pupil Progress Leaders. If students have any problems accessing or completing the work they should contact their subject teachers in the first instance. Following the government guidance last week, subject teachers today have prioritised remote learning for students in Year 11 to 13. Students in Year 7 - 10 will follow their timetable for full remote learning from tomorrow but today they should check their year group Google Classrooms as there is a reading challenge and a Careers Challenge linked with the NHS. There is also a competition for Year 10 students.

Yesterday I wrote to you regarding the Covid Testing Programme for schools. We await further guidance, however I would be grateful if you could please complete the Google Form so that we are prepared when students return to school. If you require a printed copy of the documents please contact the school and we will post these to you.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ms A. Waugh-Lucas'.

Ms A. Waugh-Lucas
Headteacher