

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 11 and Year 13,

Yesterday, the government announced that Year 11 and Year 13 students will not sit exams this year. I wanted to update you on what this means for your child.

Year 11 and Year 13 Examinations

For Year 11 and Year 13 students, GCSE, A Level and BTEC exams will not take place this year. Instead, the Government has assured us that students will receive **recognition for all of their work** and receive the qualifications they need to progress onto the next stage of their lives. The Government have also assured us that this will be a **fair** process. The government has said they will publish more information on Friday 20th March about how this works, but it is likely that it will involve teacher assessment, previous assessments and, where relevant, coursework.

What does this mean for my child?

We will await further information but it is important to emphasise to children that the new system for awarding qualifications will take into account their hard work up to this point and also in the remainder of their study up to when the exams would have taken place. **It is vital that students continue to learn.** It is likely that their teachers will be involved in the awarding of grades, and so it is important that students work with their teachers to show they are learning in the weeks ahead.

We do not learn our subjects simply to achieve grades, but because there is value in learning in itself and because the knowledge and skills we learn are vital to our success in the next stage of our lives. We want our pupils to thrive at Sixth Form, University and beyond and this will only be possible if they work hard now.

So, we will keep teaching Year 11 and Year 13, they will keep learning. They will still get the rewards for their hard work. I appreciate this will be an emotional time, but we will support your children and ensure they are treated fairly.

The days ahead

From Monday, we will switch to remote learning, where pupils will learn online. Learning instructions for each subject can be found under 'Student Learning' on the website. Please ensure you regularly check the website for updates.

Best wishes,

Jo Spencer
Interim Principal