

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 11,

I have spoken to the students and staff today and I wanted to write to you to outline my thinking on these unprecedented times. This is a rapidly evolving situation and I will stay in communication with you, but will try to respond to facts not speculation.

In my opinion schools play a number of important roles in society. We provide an opportunity to achieve qualifications which open gateways to future developments, more on this in a moment. A further crucial role of school is to support our young people on their journey from Year 6 through to successful placement in Year 12 and beyond. We guide them through these formative years and offer support in becoming the young people they want to be. In these extraordinary times this role of school is crucial. We will stay alongside our young people until their futures are secured and do whatever it takes to help them.

The first priority has to be the health and well-being of our whole community both from Coronavirus itself but also from the impact it has on the wider well-being and mental health that all the uncertainty in society will cause. We have spoken to all our Year 11s individually today to reassure them as far as possible, take a contact email and check we have accurate details of their Year 12 plans. We aim to stay in regular contact with them all.

The situation on exams remains uncertain, it is clear that all students will need qualifications, but how this will occur is not yet known. I will monitor this closely and keep them and you updated both in terms of the outcome and our actions to ensure we get the best possible outcome. However, no learning is wasted ever and their education will have equipped them with knowledge and skills which will stand them in good stead in the future. Those young people going on to study A Levels and at further education will still need the knowledge and content from their GCSE courses to fully achieve at A Level so I encourage them to continue to study and ensure they cover the content to start A Levels from a positive position.

We will continue to get coursework completed, this may involve us contacting students to arrange for them to come in next week, I thank you in anticipation for your support with this.

Some students asked if this was their last day, I emphatically said it was not, schools will reopen and the Year 11 will return if at all possible and dependant on developments. Our work with them is not finished. The students also asked about Prom, this is something I will make happen, I am not sure where or when, but they will have a Prom.

I cautioned students to beware of the social media myths, no one as yet has any more facts than are available to us all. We have to be careful of the speculative “if” and wait for facts to base our actions on.

The students’ future remains there for the taking we just need to adjust how we get there, but we will work tirelessly to help them achieve their goals.

Headteacher Mrs Nicola Pearce

As a school we are currently working on our plans to support parents who work as “key workers” and those students eligible for Free School Meals or who are considered vulnerable, further details will be shared once I have them.

I am immensely proud of the resilience shown by our students this morning and their determination to work with us to achieve the best possible outcome in these very challenging circumstances. I have also been astounded by the support offered by the amazing staff body of the school to build a plan as we move forwards. I would like to publically thank them all for their efforts now and in the future. We are all part of a very special community.

If you have any further questions, I will endeavour to answer them, so please do not hesitate to contact me, initially by email if possible, and please allow a little time for me to respond.

My thoughts and best wishes to you and your families.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs N Pearce
Headteacher