

20 March 2020

Dear Year 11 Parents and Pupils,

We understand that pupils are unhappy about not being asked to come into school today, many of whom believe they have now attended Harrytown for the last time. We cannot be sure that they will not be required to attend again once this public health emergency has abated. We have needed to respond to the ever-changing circumstances that are being faced and guidelines around social distancing. As a result we have needed to prioritise which pupils we can accommodate safely in school and which pupils would enable more parents to attend work today due to their age and ability to safely look after themselves. Unfortunately, we have received some criticism from a small number of parents about the decision we have reached but we would like to thank all Year 11 pupils who have contacted school with their sincere messages of thanks to staff for their efforts. The uncertainty that exists is also a source of frustration for all staff.

We realise that Year 11 pupils have been hugely affected by the decision made to close schools and the decisions we have been forced to make in the last two days. When we are past this current situation we will endeavour to make provision for Year 11 to come together as long as it is safe to do so. We ask that you support us in this decision and realise that we are working in very challenging and ever-changing circumstances.

In terms of Year 11, the government have announced that there will be no GCSEs taken in May and June. They stated on Friday 20 March: "This means ensuring GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in."

Teachers will now be evaluating pupil work and all progress data over the last two years in order to determine predicted grades for pupils before it is submitted to the exam boards. We cannot communicate this to pupils as this grade is subject to change by Ofqual (as stated in the passage above). We have asked all teachers **not to share grades with pupils**, we know many of them have requested this via 'ShowMyHomework', but many subjects will be sharing work for pupils to complete over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

Mr. K. Turmeau

Mr K Turmeau
Headteacher

'I have come that they have life and have it to the full' John 10:10

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