

Headteacher: Miss Caitlin Macrae

20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear parents, carers and students

## Re – Update on Year 11 qualifications and home learning

I hope that you and your families are well and safe.

Following on from our previous correspondence on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April about the awarding of GCSE and A Level grades this year, I wanted to reassure you that we are now working with the exam boards to prepare the data that they require. As requested by Ofqual and the exam boards, staff will be using evidence that we have within school to give students the 'most plausible grade' that would have been gained if the exams had gone ahead as planned in the summer. This evidence base will include mocks exam results, in class assessments, assessments done at home, classwork and homework, to ensure that the judgements are robust and evidence based. No work that has been completed by students since school closures on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 will be used for these judgements.

You may already be aware that there is a government consultation that is open to teachers, parents/carers and students about the system this year for grading and assessment. If you wish to contribute to this consultation, the link to this is as follows:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/exceptional-arrangements-for-exam-grading-andassessment-in-2020>

It has also been confirmed that the results' days will remain as planned on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2020 for A Levels and the **20<sup>th</sup> August 2020** for GCSEs. We will be in touch with further details about results days in due course.

## Home Learning Resources

Now that these details have been clarified, there is no reason for Year 11 students to continue working on Year 11 subject specific tasks that staff had previously set them through Show My Homework. We would however ask that students continue to keep in touch with their tutors, checking their school email account daily and now begin to work on tasks that will help to prepare students for their next steps. Please find details of these tasks as follows:

- **For students planning to go onto Sixth Form study:** staff will set bridging projects for their subjects to suit the needs your child's future A Level plans and endeavours. All bridging projects will be posted on the school website from Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> April. Please email the member of staff named on the bridging project for any queries about the work. Students are expected **to briefly feedback to their tutor once each week with their progress on the tasks they are working on.** Students will be expected to hand in their bridging project upon the start of their A Level courses in September. Please note, September 2020 entry into the Sixth Form remains subject to meeting the entry requirements.
- **For students planning to go onto college, work and apprenticeships:** a special interest research based task will be posted on the school website from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> April to help students prepare for the next phase of their education and skills. Please contact your

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child's Year 11 tutor for any queries about the task. Students are expected to **briefly feedback to their tutor once each week with their progress on the tasks they are working on.**

Although the tasks are relevant for students depending on their pathways for after Year 11, the tasks are planned to be broad and interest-based and we would encourage Year 11 to do any of the projects that interest them. Please continue to encourage your child to commit to a routine in order to remain focused and optimise working from home, working on the resources from the website, exercising and reading.

### **Careers Advice and Guidance**

YC Hertfordshire offices are currently closed, however they are keen to support students and are offering to conduct guidance via the telephone. If your child needs to think through career decisions or ensure they have their applications completed for college or an apprenticeship then please contact Mr Ali Sheriff who is The Highfield School YC Adviser. Please find below his email address and telephone number so your child can make contact and arrange some careers advice and guidance.

Telephone: 01438 844625

E: [ali.sheriff@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:ali.sheriff@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

W: [www.ychertfordshire.org](http://www.ychertfordshire.org)

Also, from April 20<sup>th</sup> 2020 the BBC are offering on BBC Bitesize a section which is all about careers and we recommend students have a look at it at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers>

Wishing you all the best of health.

Kind Regards

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Assistant Headteacher

Sarah Waseem  
Assistant Headteacher