



March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 and 13 students

On Friday two of my boys may have had a milestone in their lives that has come far too early. My eldest may have had his last school day of Year 11 and my youngest may have finished primary school. As I looked at them, standing in their uniforms at the start of the day, I couldn't help but feel a great sense of sadness as well as pride. I am sure that you will have had an emotional weekend with your children, who should be looking forward to the summer term of Year 11 and 13 with all the challenges of examinations but also all the moments of celebration, with proms and leavers' assemblies; those rites of passage that so many students have enjoyed in previous years. Please thank your child for me for the way in which they handled the news last week, as they were incredibly resilient and mature and it was good to share a moment with them on Friday as they had photos and signed shirts.

I am writing to you to reassure you that your child's education with us has not finished. The Department for Education announced on Friday that they will be asking teachers to give the grade they think students would have achieved had they sat the exams, based on a range of evidence. We are yet to be told what that evidence will be and it is therefore very important that the work set by your child's teachers is completed to the best of their ability. Your child will most likely be going onto further study, whether this be at Post 16, Higher Education or apprenticeships and so the knowledge and skills developed in the coming months will be important.

You can put your trust in teachers to ensure that your child continues to get high quality resources and activities and that we will do all we can to ensure that they get the grades they deserve for all their hard work. We will also be working hard to ensure that your child gets their place at Sixth Form or at college as planned. For Year 13 students we will be working within the government guidance to support applications to university, I know Mr Howard will be writing to you separately about this later today.

I can also assure you that we will be doing all we can to ensure our Year 11 and 13 do have the send-off they deserve. It may well be that we have to look for a later date for the Year 11 prom and I know Mr Temple-Purcell will be in contact about this. However, I am determined that we will have one when safe to do so.

Finally, at this time of national crisis, we are asked to trust the science and to follow the advice of the government. We need to give our support to front line services, particularly the NHS. I want to thank all staff who are operating the school for key worker children to allow them to continue to do their jobs.

Can I ask you to please talk to your children about strictly adhering to the social distancing rules and not leave the house to socialise. Children are quite often asymptomatic and carrying the virus without realising.

I truly hope that, if we all play our part and follow the guidance, we will be back in school as soon as possible.

Take care of yourself and your families

Kind Regards

Ian Smith-Childs

Ian Smith-Childs
Headteacher