



January 2021

Dear Year 12 students and parents

Happy new year to you all...and here we go again!

I hope you and your families are keeping well and that you are not getting too anxious about what 2021 holds for you, especially in terms of your A level/BTEC assessment and your destinations post Coleshill. It will go down as an extraordinary period in our history and we're determined to support you both academically and pastorally to make sure that you achieve the best outcomes you can.

We know a little bit more about how Year 13 students will be assessed at the end of their schooling, but we do not yet know whether there will be any difference in the assessment arrangements for Year 12, but we will share any guidance with you in due course.

For now, it's really important to be in the online lessons and to complete any work that is set. I know that it can be difficult to find the motivation at times when you are not in school and that the goalposts keep moving but it gives you a chance to show, over the next few months, that you are in control of your destiny! Teachers are putting a lot of effort into adapting lessons so they can be delivered 'live' through MS TEAMS. Year 12 will get six live lessons a fortnight, with the other lessons being remote activities which are uploaded in TEAMS. You know that your teachers are always available via Teams/email etc to support you through this.

You will know how keen I am on widening your horizons, so if you do feel that you have some spare time try to do some wider reading or activity which could support your CV or university application. I know that if I were an employer I would ask you what you did differently during COVID.

Here are my suggestions:

- Read - try some fiction – download some audio books
- Do your research for that EPQ – consider starting one if you haven't yet
- Do a MOOC – Future Learn is the best provider and has some brilliant online courses
- Look at some TED talks and find out something new
- Discover Radio 4
- Look at the BBC website in particular for interesting short videos
- Watch films and documentaries



- Start doing some research re University and careers – go on the UCAS website and register for their hub and log on to Unifrog (I'll repost the codes on Teams)
- There are also lots of online uni and careers presentations – again posted on Teams

I recognise that you're missing out on really important family and social aspects of your life too. Christmas and New Year were certainly different and challenging in many ways and I know that lots of you can't celebrate birthdays, family events, getting your first driving lesson and so on in the way that you would like. (Mrs Owen's 60th last week wasn't the party we'd hoped for). There will be some big celebrations when all this is over!

But, on a more serious note, I also recognise that your mental health can be compromised because the current situation. As ever Mrs Bishop and I are available to chat – just email or pick up the phone – but there are some useful online sites which can give support.

[YoungMinds - children and young people's mental health charity](#)

[Home - Kooth](#)

[The Mix - Essential support for under 25s](#)

I hope to see you all sooner rather than later, but, in the meantime, stay safe and keep in touch!

All the very best

Yours faithfully

Glyn Owen

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