



January 2021

Dear year 13 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.

On Wednesday Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, stated that A Level examinations would not be able to go ahead in the summer and that teacher assessments would be used to decide student grades. As I write to you today, we are awaiting further guidance on what will be needed to provide the evidence for these teacher assessments. Vocational examinations have gone ahead this month, though we await further guidance on the summer examination series. As we get further guidance we will be sharing with you in more detail. What students need to know now is that the work your child does each lesson, and in the ongoing assessments they complete, will form an important part of teacher assessments.

For now, it's really important to be in the online lessons and to complete any work that is set. Teachers have put a lot of effort into adapting lessons so that they can be delivered 'live' through MS TEAMS. For Year 13 students every lesson will be delivered live. I can see that a few students have found getting to period 1 a bit of a challenge this week but I'm sure that will settle down. The goalposts have been moved but it gives you a chance to show, over the next few months, that you are in control of your destiny! You know that your teachers are always available via Teams/email etc... to support you through this.

You may have noticed that UCAS have extended the deadline by two weeks. I think that most of you who are applying are in control but I'm available every day to support – just phone, email or use teams\*. I know the employment picture is much more uncertain but keep the research going and contact me or Mrs Bishop in the same way for support.

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 are celebrating your 18<sup>th</sup> birthdays in a way that you hadn't anticipated. (Mrs Owen's



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**An 11-19 Business and Enterprise Academy**

Coventry Road, Coleshill, B46 3EX  
www.thecoleshillschool.org.uk  
enquiries@thecoleshillschool.org.uk  
Tel: 01675 462435 Fax: 01675 465232  
Headteacher: Mr I Smith-Childs

60<sup>th</sup> 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 of 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

*Glyn Owen*

Glyn Owen  
Head of Sixth Form

\*Please try to check the general year 13 page I set up on Teams from time to time as I'll post UCAS and careers updates on there.



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Registered Office: The Arthur Terry School, Kittoe Road, Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B74 4JZ  
CEO, Richard Gill, NPQH, NLE, FRSA