

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the Government's announcement last night and due to the rising cases of Covid-19 we will now be moving to our Home Learning protocols from **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**. We will carry on as we had originally planned for this week and I will write to you in the coming days with full guidance on our online provision from Monday. The school is not closed and we will remain open for critical workers and invited students. Whilst we may be all perplexed and bemused at this time the most important thing at this stage is to reassure our children that like everything else, this too will pass. There will be uncertainty and concern but the best way to blow that away is to keep as much daily routine as possible. Keep the focus on the job at hand; studying and enjoying learning. We are all in this together as part of #teamchsg and my team will continue to maintain a high level of expectation, challenge and support.

Year 11 and 13 – at this moment we do not know what is happening regarding the Summer examinations; guidance is to follow in the coming weeks. It would be reasonable to assume that that students will receive grades based on a similar system to 2020 but I cannot confirm that. However what I do know is that our Year 11 and 13 have worked so hard this year and we will continue to support and challenge them to be the best version of themselves, regardless of the path over the next few months. But we must ensure that all students continue to work diligently, this is far from over and every year remains a stepping stone to the next stage of their careers regardless. Year 11 and 13 must turn up to all their online lessons, keep working hard and know that every piece of work they complete will still make a difference. Myself and other members of SLT will write to Year 11 and 13 separately today.

BTEC examinations – at the moment they are going ahead and students should continue to prepare. The examination boards have asked for urgent clarification from Department for Education and we will await their response.

You will no doubt have seen from the guidance we sent out that we spent the vast majority of the holidays and many hours preparing for the phased return and the setting up of a testing facility. We are obviously bitterly disappointed that these plans will not now see fruition. We are even more disappointed and frustrated that we could have used this time more effectively to prepare even better resources for students, set up even better support networks and be generally even better prepared than we currently are. We were consistently told that schools must remain open (with some schools being threatened with legal action), that the examinations would certainly go ahead and we should plan accordingly and to have a testing facility up and running ready to welcome students by 11<sup>th</sup> January.

More infuriating is the fact that at the centre of all of these changes and indecisions are our young peoples' lives and futures. As adults we can deal with change and recalibrate more easily but the fact that this has such a detrimental impact on our young people is unacceptable, unfair and morally wrong. We have built our reputation on our motto of Excellence: everywhere, every day because we know that these high expectations are fair, they generate confidence and they are crucial to everyone's future success. As we welcome you once again as an integral part of #teamchsg we expect everyone to work together in maintaining these high standards and routines and to ensure there is continual support and encouragement for your daughter's education over the coming weeks. We will be with you every step of the way. For there is no better gift that we can collectively give to any child than an excellent education.

Take care

Mr M M J Devenney