



17th April 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

As you will be aware, we have now received confirmation that the national lockdown will continue, and that schools will remain closed to the majority for at least the next 3-4 weeks. I therefore write to advise you that work will continue to be set on the SMC Study remote platform in the same way as prior to the Easter break. We have taken feedback and made efforts to respond to the significant learning from the first few weeks of the provision. That said we are always keen to improve so please take the opportunity to share your experience with personal tutors who will continue to make regular contact.

We very much hope that you have enjoyed some time over the Easter break to rest and recalibrate. It is now time to consider a shift back to an academic routine and in the absence of a first day return to school it is important to plan how this will look at home on Monday morning. We expect all students to follow their usual timetable, completing the work set by their teachers at the appropriate time and allowing breaks as normal in the school day. I encourage you to take the opportunity this weekend to get prepared; set alarms where required and make sure that you have organised where work will take place. Go back and revisit the guidance we have published for remote working to make sure that you create the best possible environment for focused learning and progress.

I have written to Year 11 and 13 families to outline what the summer term will bring differently for you. As a school we will be busy playing our part in the process of grade allocation for students unable to sit examinations this summer. Until now this has only affected Year 11, 12 and 13 but we have just received encouraging news for Year 10 also. The anticipated Ofqual consultation has now been released and includes a proposal that students from Year 10 will receive allocated grades for qualifications they were entered for this summer, in the same way as older students. As a Trust we have been making representations in pursuit of this outcome for some time and will be responding on your behalf to the consultation. We however encourage those affected to do the same and will send details to Year 10 families for your consideration and support.

The education of our students, their safety and well-being are of critical importance to us. To that end it remains of utmost importance that we all continue to closely follow Government guidance. We recognise the essential sacrifice the current situation demands of us all and the many and varied challenges this presents. If anyone in our community requires any advice, support or guidance please continue to access the relevant areas of the website and SMC Study for details of available services.

Yours sincerely

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