



17th April 2020

Dear Year 11 & 13 Students, Parents and Carers

As we prepare to begin the summer term which under normal circumstances would bring an intense period of examinations, much thought has been given to the opportunities lost and gained for those affected by the unprecedented cancellations. At St Mary's College we remain committed to ensuring the best possible educational provision for all our students; that which underpins preparedness for the next steps in any young person's further education, employment or training. As such we have carefully considered our approach to setting work for Year 11 and 13 over the coming weeks.

What we cannot replicate is the acute nature of an examination season; not least the urgency of focus for students in retaining key knowledge and rehearsing key assessment skills. It is important that students are not disadvantaged in terms of being ready for their next steps as a result. There is a risk that our young people could become deskilled due to a prolonged period without academic study. The demands for Year 12 students, those studying apprenticeships and professional qualifications, or undergraduates over the coming years will not be adjusted to accommodate the current circumstances. Furthermore, it is very important to remember that where any individual is unhappy with their allocated grades, they will need to be ready to take examinations in the autumn term.

We believe that alongside the challenges, the current situation affords us some unique opportunities for meaningful study. In addition to drawing on our significant internal expertise, we have reached out through our World Class network and association to secure wider opportunities. These include every student in Year 11 and 13 being registered with Eton College for one of their accredited qualifications which can be undertaken and certified over the summer term. This will provide an exceptional addition to any CV and develop critical skills for the future. Further details will be circulated in due course.

As of Monday 20th April, we will not set any new assessed work and in line with Government guidance work completed from this point on will not contribute to Centre Assessed Grades. Our expectation is that in students' own best interests the work set will be accessed and completed to the very best of their ability. Teachers will remain available to support and can be contacted as they have been.

Taking all of this in to consideration we have established a balanced summer term provision as follows:

W/c 20th & 27th April: Subject knowledge and assessment skills review / rehearsal

W/c 4th & 11th May SMC subject level enrichment and functional skill enhancement

W/c 18th May onwards: Set lesson work ceases. We will provide opportunities for engagement including the accredited qualifications noted above. These will be optional although strongly encouraged.

I hope this offers some clarity of expectation and restates our commitment to our school leavers. I implore all of our Year 11 and 13 students to reflect the St Mary's standard, to be inspired by the extraordinary spirit and resolve we currently see from so many across society, and to embrace the opportunities presented to them over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Perry - **Head of School**

St Mary's College
Cranbrook Avenue
Hull, HU6 7TN

Tel. 01482 851136
Fax. 01482 804522
Email. admin@smchull.org

@SMCHull
 @SMCHull
www.smchull.org

Executive Head/CEO.
Mr G Fitzpatrick

Head of School
Mr D Perry

