



15th May 2020

Dear Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers,

Earlier this week we received initial details from the government of measures proposed to ease the current 'lockdown' in England, which has included reference to schools. Can I direct you to the statement published on behalf of the Trust this week which outlines our current position and is available on the website and through social media. For clarity, in the immediate future nothing will change at all for students at St Mary's. We acknowledge the government's ambition to provide 'some opportunity for Year 12 to have contact with teachers before the end of the Summer term, alongside their remote provision'. However, as appealing as this prospect is, any adjustment at all from the current provision will only begin to be considered when we are confident it is safe to do so. The education of our students, their safety and well-being remain at the centre of all we do. We will continue to monitor guidance and shape our responses with careful consideration to our local context.

That having been said, we are acutely aware of the need to maintain a formal assessment window at the end of this academic year for Year 12.

This will have the following benefits:

- Ensure students have a clear focus to motivate engagement in remote learning / revision of Year 1 content in the coming weeks;
- Provide a 'best possible' basis for managing progression on to courses in Year 13;
- Enable teachers and leaders to be informed about where students are in their learning, individually and as groups, such that planning can be refined and refocused where required.

As such, I will be in touch after the May half term with details as to what the timetable will look like and how assessments will be administered. **It is likely that assessments will begin in the week beginning 22nd June.**

In the meantime, I urge students to continue to engage with the work that they are set remotely and be pro-active in seeking guidance from their teachers when completing this work and preparing for their end of year assessments.

If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,

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