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19<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Following the announcements earlier this week about school closures and the subsequent decision to cancel the summer exam series 2020, I would like to share with you the following information about how we plan to help support our year 11, 12 and 13 students over the coming months.

Although the exams may have been cancelled, it is clear that the English and Welsh governments are keen that students who were scheduled to take GCSEs, AS and A-Levels this year are still to be awarded grades in August. The precise process and system that will be used is still unclear.

However, if we base our assumption on what is likely to happen from past exam board responses in emergency situations, then it is likely that Ofqual will recommend the use of teacher assessments, externally moderated and/or triangulated alongside existing data which the DfE holds on the school's past results.

If we are to be relying on teacher assessments as a way of determining final grades then, as schools, we shall have to be able to provide evidence of the robustness of our decisions.

There may also be an expectation that exams are still taken in some fashion, albeit remotely, as is happening at some of our universities.

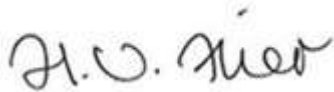
To that end it is crucial that, as far as our year 11, 12 and 13 students are concerned, it is very much business as usual. There are still courses that need to be completed and preparation and revision for teacher-set assessments that will need to take place to build up our body of evidence.

I met with all the examination students in school today and it is clear that many of our students are shocked and devastated by the decision to cancel the exams. They have been working hard and preparing diligently for many months and will need our support in managing this changed landscape that now faces them. We owe it to them to maintain as much normality as possible.

We have been assured by our Prime Minister that our students' progress will *"not be impeded as a result of this decision"* and that further advice and guidance will be available by tomorrow, Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March. Following this we shall update you with our response as necessary.

Please be assured that we will continue to do everything possible to support our students and to keep you updated.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Hier'.

Helen Hier  
Headteacher