



19th March 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

On Wednesday 18th March, it was announced by the Secretary of State for education that schools are to close tomorrow Friday 20th March because of the coronavirus and there is currently no date set to reopen schools. As you are aware, we have been preparing for this eventuality as a school and have provided Year 11 with bespoke packs of work to cover the first two weeks of the school closure. The secretary of state for education went on to state:

***“I can confirm that we will not go ahead with assessments or exams, and that we will not be publishing performance tables for this academic year. We will work with the sector and have to ensure children get the qualifications that they need.*”**

My department is working closely with local authorities, representatives of early years schools and head teachers, regional schools, commissioners and bodies such as Ofqual about how to deliver this change as effectively as possible.”

As Headteacher, I have seen how hard our Year 11 have worked towards these examinations and know how upset they are in response to news of the cancellation. At this time, I would also like to recognise their teachers who have worked tirelessly to prepare our students for these exams.

Having witnessed the upset and anguish amongst students this morning, I have decided to suspend lessons for Year 11 from today and they will not be required to attend College on Friday 20th March. Although it will be very difficult for them to move forward initially, our staff will still be available to respond to any further queries students may have.

At this time, there is limited information available as to the awarding of GCSE grades and how this will work. We will, however, keep you updated with any announcements and endeavour to find answers to any questions you may have. Our advice at this time of uncertainty is to reassure your child that plans for their progression to post-16 destinations will be put in place. We will work closely with all the local post-16 providers to best support our Year 11 through the transition process onto their future studies.

Whilst not of primary importance today, I would also like to inform you that we are in negotiations to postpone the Class of 2020 Prom to a date later in the year. We feel it is always important to mark the end of a year group's journey with us and will keep you updated with all new arrangements that we put in place.

These are very difficult and unprecedented times for all of us and we will be here to support you, your children and the wider community. Please stay in touch via our website and social media platforms, which will be updated regularly.

Thank you for your ongoing support in the education of our young people.

Yours faithfully

Mr G Rule

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G Rule', is positioned below the typed name 'Mr G Rule'.

Headteacher