



Dear Parents and Carers,

**Re: Closure of the school and provision of childcare from Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2020**

First of all, we are grateful for all that critical workers are doing to protect and care for us in our hour of need. As you are aware, yesterday the Prime Minister called for a “heroic and collective national effort” to follow social distancing.

To help prevent the spread of Covid-19 the best place for your child(ren) to be is at home, practising social distancing. **Do not use the childcare provision we are currently running unless you absolutely have to.**

We will continue to provide a place for the children of those workers **critical** to the response to coronavirus if their children cannot safely stay at home. However, provision is limited and will only be sustainable in the coming weeks and months if people use this as an option of last resort.

We know that many of you, who initially thought you required a place, have now been able to make alternative arrangements for your child. We really do appreciate this. We are likely to receive further guidance as the week progresses; this includes collaborating with other schools in the area to ensure that we are able to continue to provide childcare.

In an effort to keep you up to date with the latest government directives and information concerning the assessment of GCSE and A Levels this summer, below are summaries of the press release from Friday 20th March. You will also find the link to the full article below.

**Assessment of Students’ Work**

- Teachers will be submitting a grade that reflects what the student would have achieved had they sat the exams this summer. This will not necessarily be the grade the student receives from the exam board (see below).
- Teacher predictions will reflect mock examination data, Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) work and completed exam and coursework modules for vocational qualifications (BTEC).
- More information will be provided to schools on how exactly the teacher predicted grades should be formulated.
- Exam boards will combine this teacher prediction with other factors to reach a final grade. These factors will include prior attainment (eg. KS2 SATS, GCSE results) and the performance of all students in previous years as is usually the case with the work of examination boards.

**What and When?**



- Calculated grades will be given to students before the end of July.
- The certificates you receive will be no different from any other year (i.e. future employers will not know you did not sit exams).
- Students will be able to appeal decisions on their calculated grade if they feel the process has not been followed correctly.
- Students will have the opportunity to sit exams if they are not happy with their results either when schools reopen or in the summer of 2021.

#### **Link to the Government Information**

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>

#### **Our Recommended Next Steps for Students**

- Any unfinished NEA work that can be completed at home should be, and be submitted to your teacher as soon as possible by email.
- Do not stop studying as you may be in a position where you wish to sit exams when schools reopen.
- Do not stop studying, as you need to maintain good working habits for your next steps in education or employment.
- Keep up to date with news on education as information is being updated frequently.
- Look out for communication from the Academy. We will continue to let you know of information that affects your studies and results.
- Stay safe and adhere to government guidance on social distancing.

Please can I request that you do not contact the school with enquiries about individual grades at the moment, we are not in a position to be able to discuss this with you until we have the full guidance. We know that this is a worrying time, but we expect further clarity in the next few weeks and will update you again accordingly.

Yours faithfully,

D Turner  
Executive Principal

