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Quality education  
for all in a  
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safe environment



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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have all had an enjoyable Easter weekend as we move into our fourth week of lockdown ahead of the start of the summer term next Monday.

Although things have been a little quieter in terms of publications from other external agencies that I would normally draw your attention to, there are still a number of issues for your information:

### Summer 2020 Examination cancellation

*Information for students (Years 11 & 13 – this also applies to Year 12 students taking AS Levels)*  
Ofqual has published a short film 'Grading in 2020 – information for students' which may be of use in helping to explain the work the school is undertaking in creating grades for this summer's cancelled examinations. It can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXuDOrtJY1Q&feature=youtu.be> May I remind you that we will not be able to share our provisional grades, or rank orders, with students, parents or carers before the final results are issued by the Examination Boards, so please do not contact any members of staff in this regard.

### *Early Entrants – Year 10*

A number of Year 10 parents/carers have understandably asked for clarification regarding the English Literature GCSE examination that was due to be taken by Year 10 this summer. The position of Ofqual at present is that Examination Boards will not issue grades for students in Year 10 or below, although they are consulting on this proposal. Ofqual have stated that their objective in awarding grades based on school and college judgements is primarily to allow students to progress to the next stage of their education, or to employment or training. Their rationale is that Year 10 students will have the opportunity to sit the cancelled exams at a later date without it having a detrimental impact on their future choices and destinations. That said, we understand this does not take into account the substantial amount of work and preparation already undertaken by Year 10 students towards their summer examinations and the uncertainty surrounding what happens next.

In summary, therefore, we are awaiting confirmation on whether:

- No grades will be awarded for Year 10 students and they will sit the examinations instead in Year 11, or
- School will be asked to submit a grade based upon the existing evidence we have, that the Examination Board will publish to students in the summer

I appreciate this does not provide a definitive answer but I hope clarifies the current situation at this time. I shall include any further updates in our weekly communications with parents/carers. Once the consultation mechanism is announced, I will be making a representation on behalf of the school and its students requesting the Year 10 students are treated in the same way as the Year 11 students in having a grade awarded this summer, as they have effectively completed their English Literature GCSE course in one year, as per our pre-planned curriculum for the year group.

### *Level 2 & 3 Vocational qualifications*

Ofqual confirmed on Thursday in relation to vocational and technical Level 2 & 3 qualifications (such as BTEC Nationals and Cambridge Technicals) that the approach being taken to grading these qualifications is similar to the one already outlined for A' Levels, AS Levels and GCSEs. We are awaiting a confirmed list of qualifications included within this category and more information on the grading process specific to these qualifications before we are able to proceed.

## Student learning

### *Student Bulletin*

In preparation for the start of the new term next week, our Student Bulletin published today looks to engage and stimulate our students in the second week of the holiday whilst also starting to gear them up for the term ahead. Next week's communications to both parents/carers and students will give more detail in relation to teaching, learning and assessment over the first half of the summer term. These will also include more specific content aimed at our Year 11 students in helping to prepare themselves for their future.

### *Government online learning resources*

A list of initial online education resources for home learning provided by the government in the last week. These have been identified by some of the country's leading educational experts and offer a wide range of support and resources for students of all ages giving information which includes the relevant website, Key Stages intended for, a brief description of the resource and any registration details. The resources are not intended to replace a school's properly planned curriculum but offer additional support to parents/carers in supporting their child's education. Please ensure you are familiar with the DfE's legal disclaimer in relation to these resources:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources-legal-disclaimer#dfe-online-education-resources-disclaimer--copyright-statement>

The resources can be found using the links below:

<a href="#">English</a>	<a href="#">Maths</a>	<a href="#">Science</a>
<a href="#">English: primary</a>	<a href="#">Maths: primary</a>	<a href="#">Science: primary</a>
<a href="#">English: secondary</a>	<a href="#">Maths: secondary</a>	<a href="#">Science: secondary</a>
<a href="#">Physical education (PE) and physical activity</a>	<a href="#">Mental wellbeing</a>	<a href="#">Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)</a>
<a href="#">PE and physical activity: primary</a>	<a href="#">Mental wellbeing: primary</a>	<a href="#">SEND: apps and games</a>
<a href="#">PE and physical activity: secondary</a>	<a href="#">Mental wellbeing: secondary</a>	<a href="#">SEND: resources for teachers</a>

### Key Stage 3 Reading:

We would encourage all students to read material of their own choosing daily for at least 20 minutes. They should embrace a range of genres and styles of reading material from special interest magazines to novels, short stories, plays, blogs, reviews and diaries, sourced online or from a bookshelf at home. We now have the facility for Year 8 students to access Accelerated Reader from home in order to complete quizzes. They should use the following link before entering their student number:

<https://ukhosted55.renlearn.co.uk/1963619> The password will be sent to Year 8 through ePraise. Happy reading!

### ParentPay

Due to administrative changes at ParentPay, we have closed all open items at present so parents/carers will be unable to add any credit to these items until school reopens. All monies currently held in ParentPay will be retained by them until they reopen and therefore cannot be refunded during our period of closure; apologies for any inconvenience caused by this.

### Community support

I would once again like to give a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to providing contents for our Easter hampers or Laptops for use by students as part of their home learning. Both of these have been a real community effort and I am very grateful indeed for your generosity and selflessness. The reaction from those in receipt of these items has been humbling. One parent commented:

*'Please could you pass on our many thanks for the parcel that we got today. We are overwhelmed by the generosity of people and it's nice to know that even though you're locked in you're not forgotten. Can you thank of all of the staff and all of the people that have donated the items, it truly will make a massive difference to our Easter weekend'*

Can I thank you once again for your efforts in helping our students to prevent the spread of the virus and continue with their education from home. As hard as it may be as we enter the fourth week of lockdown, insisting that our students adhere to the lockdown guidance is as important as ever, in both saving lives in the short-term and hopefully easing the lockdown restrictions sooner than might otherwise be the case.

Yours faithfully



Phil Hanson  
Headteacher