

20 March 2020

## Y11 Parent Update

Dear Parent / Carer,

Thank you for all your support and kind messages this week. This is a very worrying time, but we will pull through it together. Key points for today;

- We now know that GCSEs will be awarded using teacher assessment this year. Grades will be fair and moderated between schools. Students will have the option to sit an actual exam in the autumn of 2020 or summer 2021 if they wish to challenge a grade they are given. Exam boards will ensure consistency and accuracy in grading by working with us as teachers. KAA will have to produce a range of evidence, including mock exam papers, class work and best work. The eventual GCSE qualifications your child will receive will be exactly the same as if they had done the real exams, and progression to Sixth Form or College will be unaffected.

**Notwithstanding the disappointment Y11 are feeling, this is a good development. It does not mean the grade your child received in their December 2019 Mock is the grade they will get.** On the contrary, we will look to submit teacher assessed grades at the latest possible point, to recognise the progress your child has made since December, and will continue to make in the coming weeks. We will clarify this with them shortly – for now, **keep working**. Many subjects are setting mock papers for Y11 next week, for example.

- KAA@Home starts from Monday but **please do not expect it to be perfect**. Students should try and follow their timetable but if lessons are not ready or working they should fall back on general revision. Please do not send us emails or calls unless you really have to. Instead, use the guidance on the website and the regular emails we are sending to solve problems. Students should get in the habit of checking their own email several times a day. If your child has a video call with a teacher, please make sure they are appropriately dressed and remember these calls are generally recorded for safeguarding purposes.
- Laptops will shortly be issued on a priority basis to those who need it. To collect a laptop you will need to attend with your child in uniform OR with a copy of their planner and photo of them for proof of ID. We will email parents individually about their specific collection time. The day for Y11 is Monday, and collection is from KAA building. If you are self-isolating please organise for a healthy friend / relative to collect and confirm with us your plan via [info@kaa.org.uk](mailto:info@kaa.org.uk).
- We are running a contingency school from Monday until at least Easter, but this is only for a small number of students who qualify. We have been communicating with people who we think are eligible and if you would like to express an interest in attending please visit: <https://kaa.org.uk/students-parents/covid-19-parent-updates/>
- Any unspent Parent Pay balance is being returned to your account – you do not need to call the school. And for Free School Meals students, we hope to be able to move to a voucher scheme soon, but for now they should collect their free lunch from school at 1pm on Monday. Questions, as ever, to [info@kaa.org.uk](mailto:info@kaa.org.uk).

With best wishes,



**David Benson**  
Principal