

18 March 2020

Dear Parents & Carers of Y11 & 13,

CC All Y11 & 13 Students

By now, you may have seen the announcement from the Secretary of State (SoS) for Education regarding GCSE & A Level exams and school closures. Please take the time to read this email through with your child as soon as you can.

Exams

GCSE and A Level exams will not take place this year. Whilst I appreciate this will come as a massive shock, I want to reassure students that we had anticipated this and all is by no means lost. The headline will be “exams cancelled”, but there are three other critical elements to the announcement which I would urge all parents and students to note:

- 1) **“Recognition”**: The SoS promised clearly that all students in Y11 & Y13 will receive the recognition they deserve for their hard work, and qualifications will be awarded. This suggests some sort of teacher assessment, based on predicted grades, although to be clear I do not know what this is yet and we will have to wait for more information.
- 2) **“Progression”**: The SoS said clearly that “no student should pause their ambitions” to progress to Sixth Form or university next year. Schools and universities will adjust, and work off the new system that is in place.
- 3) **“Fairness & Appeals”**: As students will not have the ability to sit an exam, and qualifications will be awarded via some other mechanism, the SoS was clear that this will be done fairly and that parents and students will be able to appeal this, if they feel the eventual award has not been fair.

So, we will keep teaching Y11 & Y13, they will keep learning and taking assessments, and they will still get the rewards for their hard work. I appreciate this will be an emotional time, but we will support your children, and they should take comfort from the fact that we are here for them and all students in UK are in the same position.

General Update

- Schools will be closed from Friday afternoon, however we will remain open for “vulnerable students” (those with a social worker involved with the family); “EHP students” and students of “key workers” (nurses, doctors, police, social workers etc). If you feel your child falls into this category please email info@kaa.org.uk, and we will be in touch with any student we think this applies to ourselves.
- All other students will be following a “KAA @ Home” curriculum which we will deliver over the internet. If you are worried about your child not having access to a laptop or the internet data being sufficient, email info@kaa.org.uk and we will help.
- Any student who qualifies for Free School Meals, or is about to qualify because their family income will fall due to lost wages caused by Coronavirus, will be issued with FSM vouchers. We will set a system up for this, but people should not worry. If concerned, please email info@kaa.org.uk.
- We are open tomorrow and Friday. If your child is healthy (no sustained cough or high temperature), and everyone at home is healthy, they should come to school. We can talk to them, explain what has happened, and try to motivate them about the coming months.

These are unprecedented times, and the government has asked for a “war time” effort. Y11 & 13 are now part of this effort, and will have to adjust. Tonight they will be shocked, in the coming days they will absorb this, and over the long term they will be fine, we can promise you that.

Intrepidus,

David Benson
Principal