

19 March 2020

Dear Y11 & 13 Parents and Carers,

CC Y11 & 13 Students

Please see an update from today, building on the points I made yesterday.

Exams

- As GCSE and A Level exams can't take place this year they will be replaced with an alternative assessment system. Students will still receive recognition for their ongoing hard work and the system will be fair to all. Progression to university and Sixth Form will still happen, and also be fair. Students or parents who feel the grades they have been awarded are unfair will be able to appeal.
- We expect details on how this system will work in the coming days but for now, Y11 & Y13 students should keep working, as the new system will cover the same content as the exams, so no current work will be wasted (and in fact could be more important). **Our teachers are here to support all Y11 & 13 students. We will help them overcome this set-back and get the best possible set of qualifications they can. We just ask that they are resilient, and keep going.**

Mocks

- Given the above, these are still very important. For Y13, these have been mainly completed and we will feedback to students online. Missed mocks will need to be completed at home as far as possible, and we will be in touch about this. For Y11, students will need to do their mocks at home in some form – again, we will be in touch about this.

KAA @ Home

- **It is essential please for parents to now watch the simple “HOW-TO” video tutorial about KAA @ Home** (<https://stage.loom.com/share/a1cf882be15941b982b9a3c9a6b190c4>). Please also read this simple **Parent Guide to KAA @ Home** (<https://kaa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/KAA-@-Home-Parent-Guide.pdf>).
- In addition to studying their subjects at home, students should use this time to read as many books as they can. Please encourage them to take books from the library tomorrow, if they are in. If not, they can access the virtual Library pages in KAA@Home.
- Please email info@kaa.org.uk if you are worried about your child not having proper access to a laptop each day while school is closed (e.g. they have to share it with a number of siblings, or your WiFi has data limits). We aim to be able to give some laptops to students next week, on a priority basis, and where there is genuine need. We will write to parents who have requested this separately to discuss the process.

UCAS

- UCAS have been in touch with schools and said students should not feel they need to rush into decisions about their firm and insurance choices. Students should not do this until the situation is clearer, as the timeline for university admissions is currently unchanged.

Free School Meals (FSM)

- We are currently finalising plans for Free School Meals (FSM) students next week, and will confirm these tomorrow. Parents should not worry. If your child has had FSM before, or you believe you now would qualify as your wages will drop due to Coronavirus, we will provide FSM. In time, the government may establish a voucher system for use in supermarkets, but next week we may do it at school.

“Skeleton School”

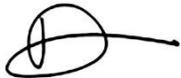
- We will run a “skeleton school” for the next two weeks for SEN students (those with EHCP); students whose parents are “key workers” (NHS employees, police, social workers etc – full list to follow); and “vulnerable students” (those who social services are involved with).
- We will create a formal sign-up process for this soon via our website, and may need to ask parents to evidence their eligibility. For now, please email info@kaa.org.uk if you would like to use this. Over Easter and during the summer term these “skeleton school” services will continue, although they may be organised at a borough level (so local schools will come together to offer one single option).

Tomorrow

- If your child has been self-isolating this week, they must not now come back tomorrow because they feel it is their last day. However, if your child is healthy (no cough, high temp) and everyone at home is healthy, then do send them to school tomorrow. We can talk to them more about KAA@Home and they can take some books from the library. Personal possessions which they will need during closure can also be taken.

I'll close by reiterating that, as shocking and sudden as this all seems, worrying at this point is not necessary. This crisis will pass, our Y13s will still make it to a quality university or apprenticeship, our Y11s to a quality Sixth Form, as long they can pick themselves up and keep going. GCSEs and A Levels qualifications will still be awarded, and in a way which is fair.

With best wishes,



David Benson
Principal