



Thursday 02.04.20

Dear Y11 students,

We hope that you and your families are okay and are staying safe. Here are our weekly updates and messages.

Update from Mr Walter

We are awaiting the final details from the Department for Education regarding the grading arrangements for the cancelled GCSE summer examinations.

A broad outline of arrangements has been released by the government. They have stated that grades will not be awarded simply based upon predicted grades. They will take account of other evidence available such as mock examination results and other assessment results. In addition to this the government has indicated that pupils' prior attainment, how well they attained in the key stage 2 SATS tests in 2015, will form part of the process. The government has confirmed that they will ensure schools are provided with clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly.

The exact details of the process will be released soon. As soon as we know what information is required, we can assure you that we will work very hard to ensure that you get the grades that reflect the amount of effort you put into your preparation for the examinations. The calculation of grades is expected to be completed by the end of July. As soon as this process is completed grades will be communicated to students.

We have been advised that if a student does not believe the correct process has been followed in their case they will be able to appeal on that basis. In addition, if they do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again. Students will also have the option to sit their exams in summer 2021.

It is important to understand that the calculated grades awarded by exam boards will be formal grades, with the same status as grades awarded in any other year. They will be accepted by post 16 colleges for access onto their courses.

Ofqual, the supervisory body which maintains the high quality of public exams, will issue further advice on its website as it becomes available. This information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ofqual>. In addition to this, each exam board is issuing its own updates as follows:

- AQA: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/coronavirus-updates>
Edexcel: <https://www.pearson.com/uk/educators/schools/update-for-schools.html>
OCR: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/supporting-you-during-coronavirus/>
WJEC: <http://web-public.web.est.wjec.co.uk/about-us/latest-news/coronavirus-fags>





College information

We have set up a college information section under 'student life' on our website. Any information we receive from colleges will be placed there.

Preparing for Post-16 Courses

New College have sent us a link to their 'summer learning' from last year which will help you to do some pre-learning. Just check the courses are the same if you are going to a different college!

<https://ncpontefract.ac.uk/independent-summer-learning-2019-y11-y12/>

Keep checking the other college sites, they are preparing some resources as well.

Other Skills

Unifrog has lots of links and resources. <https://www.unifrog.org/>

Lots of the universities have free online courses (MOOCs – Massive Open Online Courses). We are signing up to some and will let you have the details when they arrive!

Mental Health and Wellbeing

<https://www.bbc.com/ownit> This has a wellbeing app you can download

<https://www.kooth.com/>

This is the team who came into school and they offer online counselling and wellbeing strategies.

Message from Mrs Mitchell

As young adults you are having to deal with events that no one could have predicted or prepared for. We know that you realise this but we also understand that you will feel it is unfair for you and for your peers.

We want you to be assured that you are still our students and in our family. We are working on different scenarios to celebrate your years at Holy Family but we will not be able to finalise our plans until guidance from the government means schools reopen fully and groups are allowed to meet again.

Please continue to keep yourselves and others safe by following the guidance. You are wonderful, responsible young citizens and we know that you will do everything you can to stop the further spread of this virus. You will be the generation who made a difference for 'the greater good' of humanity, saving lives and protecting your families and your friends.

Our love, prayers and thoughts are with you and we will continue to be in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Mitchell

Headteacher

