

23 June 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

I am writing with a focus on the next academic year, although we are still waiting on guidance from the government regarding how schools will reopen in September. Similarly to this year we may have to adapt to the circumstances we encounter as the pandemic progresses.

The calendar for the next academic year is linked [here](#) and has been uploaded to the school website. I had hoped to take account of government plans for reopening in producing this calendar but cannot delay publication any longer. Following the successful introduction of a parent tutor day last year, we will again begin the year with an opportunity for parents and students to meet individually with their tutor. This will be especially important given the long period of absence students will have experienced. We will have the opportunity to understand each child's experience of lockdown, both emotional and academic. Year 6 students have not been able to attend a transition day this year, so to smooth their transition into secondary schooling, we will instead have a transition day when only year 7 will attend on site at the beginning of the next academic year.

We have INSET days calendared on Wednesday 1 & Friday 17 July this term, however, we will still set work to be completed at home and be open on these days for the children of key workers and year 10 students. The summer holiday will begin on Monday 20 July, government guidance in place currently is that we are closed to all students in the summer break.

If your child is in year 10, you may already be thinking about next summer and planning family holidays to celebrate the end of year 11. Normally all GCSE exams are finished by the middle of June, the dates of the exams are traditionally confirmed nationally around now. However, the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, confirmed yesterday that the government is "consulting with Ofqual about how we can move those exams back, giving children extra time in order to be able to learn and really flourish and do incredibly well."

This is likely to mean that exams will now take place in June and early July. I would strongly advise that you do not book any holidays until the final GCSE exam dates have been confirmed. We will contact you again as soon as the final dates for all exams have been published. This may also mean the prom for year 11 will take place at a later date in the year than usual.

There will be exams for students studying Music Technology, BTEC Health and Social Care and BTEC Engineering in February/March. These dates are also not yet confirmed.

Yours faithfully



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