

24 March 2020

Class of 2020

Dear Student,

Firstly, I would like to congratulate you on how you conducted yourselves over the past few days. Despite some totally understandable initial frustration about the lack of assembly, shirt signing, seeing friends, tutors and teachers, you fully understood that being in the midst of a public health emergency, this was not at all sensible. By responding as you did, there is no doubt in my mind that you prevented the unnecessary spread of the coronavirus; thank you for acting in such a mature and responsible fashion. Far from being a forgotten year group, you will be forever remembered as the Class of 2020. I promise we will find a way to celebrate your finishing of Year 11 in an appropriate manner once it is safe to do so. An autumn prom might be a wonderful, and never done before, way of marking the end of GCSEs.

Last week we received the news that exams were cancelled this summer. There has been little more detail released since but what we do know regarding **qualifications and grades** is the following:

- Teachers will submit their judgment about the grade they believe you would have achieved using a range of evidence and data. We are still waiting for guidance from exam boards on the precise methodology.
- Exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data to produce a calculated grade.
- You will be able to appeal your grades. Detail about this is yet to be published.
- There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to do so.

I would like to reassure you that **we will do everything possible** to ensure you get the grades you deserve and have worked hard for. This will include checks and moderation by teachers, heads of department and the senior leadership team. This is something that we do all of the time and have much experience and skill in doing accurately and fairly.

We are still awaiting clarification of the process by which more **practical / coursework based courses** will be awarding grades. For fairness, no further work should be done on coursework; we will use the evidence we have currently. That said, given the lockdown, we have asked for images of art work, as directed by the department, to be emailed in by this Friday.

Some of you have, quite understandably, been in touch with your teachers to discuss **predicted grades**. I have asked that they do not discuss grades with any of their students because the reality is that they do not know the mechanics of how this is going to operate. With that in mind, I politely request that neither you nor your parents contact teachers to ask such questions.

I appreciate that these have been incredibly difficult times and you are possibly confused as to whether or not you should continue with your studying. Schools are offering varying advice on this matter. We do not think that setting work to help you prepare for a possible GCSE re-take in the Autumn is appropriate currently. If you want to keep your minds alert and active you have the Year 11 revision programme that you could follow. We suggest, however, that you take a break, focus on family and those around you. We will come back to this after Easter once we have more

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information. We may decide that preparation for those subjects you wish to pursue beyond GCSE is most sensible. For those of you who are looking to continue into the sixth form at KLB, we hope to have resources in place at some point after Easter that will act as bridging material. With regards **sixth form applications**, letters with confirmation slips were sent out to all applicants last week. Please reply to Miss Khan (hkhan@klbschool.org.uk) by the end of this week.

I hope this letter clarifies a few things; in truth, there is still much that is uncertain due to events unfolding so rapidly. We will be in touch when there is more news to disseminate. In the meantime, the most important thing is to stay safe and support your families during these extraordinary times. Look after yourselves and each other.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T.Rand', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Tim Rand
Headteacher

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