

11 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your family are well and coping with this ever-changing situation. I'd like to take this opportunity to tell you about our current plans for year 12.

If we hadn't had lockdown, year 12 students would have been sitting their examinations this week and heading towards activities week before the half term break. They would have returned in early June to make final A level decisions before resuming lessons in these subjects.

Returning to school

At the start of this week, the government announced plans for "some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year." As further details are confirmed, we are developing a range of models that ensure that we can welcome back our students with the safety of our community as a priority. At this stage, we are planning for some face to face support to resume from 8 June. You can expect details about this plan next week.

Introducing new content

From the start of last week, teachers began to introduce new content to year 12 students. A few parents have asked whether we have considered the delivery of new content through live sessions using online learning platforms. There are a number of concerns about the use of video-conferencing / live lessons, however, we do realise that as time passes, there could be some benefits of its use. We will be piloting the use of Zoom for supporting year 12 students over the next two school weeks. Nine subjects will deliver sessions. We will review at the end of the pilot with a view to rolling this out further. Please see the attached document for details of the Zoom pilot, including the timetable for the sessions. We also anticipate that some teachers will be pre-recording other lessons and posting these on SMHW.

Half term

Staff will not set lessons during the half term week. Instead, students will be issued with a prioritised checklist to help them identify and work through any important tasks not yet completed.

Please be assured that, as school closure is extended, we are looking at various models to address lost learning time from the school's A level curriculum plan. We know that examination boards propose to make adjustments, but they can't publish these until they know the extent of learning time missed. One possible option for us, is that each option block (A-D) has a twilight hour every fortnight so that teaching time increases from 9 to 10 hours. This is a dynamic situation which we are reviewing all the time.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at any point or wish to discuss any sixth form related matters.

Best wishes
Hannah Khan