



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

19th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

This may be the first of two communications today following the considerable implications of the announcements yesterday about school closure and GCSE and A Level exams.

I will deal with the exams first. Teachers and pupils are all incredibly disappointed and unsettled by the announcement that **examinations will not take place this academic year**. Whilst a small number of pupils may be saying that they are pleased that there are no exams most are not. They understand that the majority of pupils, and all of the teachers, have worked hard for years to prepare for these exams. The exams are a gateway to the future and the exam results do matter.

At this stage we have no idea what arrangements will be put in place to decide what grades are allocated to students. As soon as we know more I will tell you. I've suggested to year 11 and 13 that they do not stop working. It may be that some more informal teacher assessment and completion of their courses will be used to allocate grades. **Please be patient and give us time to find out from Ofqual and the exam boards about how this will work.**

Although there is not much I can say with any certainty, I have spoken to Year 13 and Year 11 today and tried to re-assure them. What I have told them is that although they are shocked and unsettled by this news they should not allow this to define them. Irrespective of whether they take their exams or not they have built up skills, qualities and knowledge that will take them to the next stage of their employment, education or training. These young people will be defined by more than a set of exam results.

The universities, the sixth form and the colleges will still be there in September and these young people will move forward. We will support them throughout that process.

For all other year groups, 7,8 9, 10 and 12, we must maintain some continuity of education. We have worked really hard over the past two weeks to be ready for remote learning. We are ready. There will no doubt be some technical issues along the way but pupils in these year groups will have plenty of work to keep them busy. It's important that they do so because we must assume that this crisis will pass and they will need to continue their education.

Now let's deal with the other issues of **school closure, free school meals and maintaining some provision for the children of key workers**. The short answer at this point is that we have insufficient detail. What we do know is that we will be maintaining some support for free school meals, that some children with SEND will be entitled to be in school, as will the children of key workers. Key workers have not been defined at the time I'm writing this. Again, **please be patient whilst we wait for further information from government and the LA and we work through this.**

That is as much as I am able to tell you at the moment.

Yours sincerely,

Mr CA Sugden
Headteacher