



# KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

## KNARESBOROUGH

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This is my final update before the weekend, thanks again for the many messages of support sent to the school, we do appreciate them. I've divided these key messages into a number of topics:

### **Distance Learning:**

There was high demand across the country this morning, and we had some password issues for ItsLearning. By the end of the day most teachers were reporting a lot of successful online lessons.

All of the help guides are on the website. If there are ongoing technical issues that cannot be answered by subject teachers, please email our email help address:

[its@king-james.co.uk](mailto:its@king-james.co.uk)

It could be a long haul on home learning, possibly many weeks. It's really important that pupils set routines and try to have a structured day. I know it could become stressful at home. If there are any problems we still have pastoral officers and our welfare team on hand to help. That goes for safeguarding issues too.

### **Key Workers:**

Thanks for the response from key workers for any pupils who may need to be in school next week, sorry there was an initial glitch with the email address. Please see my letter about this if you need further information.

<http://www.king-james.co.uk/common/images/downloads/2020320105428-Coronavirus--Key-Workers-20th-March.pdf>

### **Cancelled Examinations at GCSE and A Level:**

We now have some indication of how the process for awarding grades to students who have had their exams cancelled at GCSE and A Level. The excerpt from the DfE website, released today, is as follows:

*The Government's priority is now to ensure affected students can move on as planned to the next stage of their lives, including going into employment, starting university, college or sixth form courses, or an apprenticeship in the autumn.*

*This means ensuring GCSE, A and AS level students are awarded a grade which fairly reflects the work that they have put in. There will also be an option to sit an exam early in the next academic year for students who wish to. Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students. The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well,*

*to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.*

*To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.*

You will appreciate that I have as many questions as you do as to how this will be applied. Please don't get in touch with us just yet about this! When I know I'll make sure you and the pupils do.

It's been a week that I will not forget in a long time. Take care of yourselves. As I said to the staff earlier this week:

*"You may not control all the events that may happen to you but you can decide not to be reduced by them"*  
Maya Angelou

And what has really kept all the King James's staff going this week are your brilliant kids, like this bunch working today on the Year 11 yearbook. Still smiling!



Yours sincerely,

Mr CA Sugden  
**Headteacher**