



# KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

## KNARESBOROUGH

20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you are all well during this incredibly difficult time. Following the Easter break we thought that it was important to briefly update you with a number of issues affecting Year 11. In most cases there is more information to follow, but these are the key things that you need to be aware of at this stage.

### **Cancelled Examinations and teacher assessed grades at GCSE**

Our initial advice was for Year 11 to keep engaging with the GCSE work set by teachers. Ofqual have now clarified the process for how GCSE grades will be awarded this summer and it is clear that there is no incentive for Year 11 to keep going with their GCSE work. **Teachers will now be instructed not to set new work for Year 11 on It's Learning.**

We are now working very hard to provide the exam boards with the 'centre assessed grades' for each student, for each GCSE subject. Teacher and schools have been told to "to use their professional experience to make a fair and objective judgement of the grade they believe a student would have achieved had they sat their exams this year" (Ofqual). This is a complex process which requires a lot of moderation in school to ensure that we offer the exam boards a realistic and fair view of likely examination performance. We will base this on how students have performed across the GCSE course including all assessments and taking into account everything that we know about them. This will not be the end of the process. After the 29<sup>th</sup> May (more likely through July) the exam boards will take this information and will assign grades based on the teacher assessments, previous school performance and adjusted to make grades comparable with previous years. The grade we submit is not necessarily the one the students will get. I have provided links to the Ofqual information in the COVID-19 section of our website.

Despite there being no purpose in setting further work, we do however need Year 11 to keep in touch with us. We still need to support them and check on their welfare, to help with careers advice and transition to college and sixth form and to communicate about exam results. It is also important that students are preparing appropriately for their Post 16 courses, whether that is A Levels, college course or apprenticeship, by engaging in wider reading around the subject areas they intend to continue studying. Details on A Level transition work for students who have applied to study A Levels at King James's Sixth Form will follow from Mr O'Hara, Director of Sixth Form in due course.

### **It's Learning and School Email**

Students will need to continue to log into It's Learning on a regular basis (we suggest twice a week) and log into and check their school emails. Communication between students and school must continue and these are the two platforms we will continue to use to deliver key messages and information. Mr Keeble has a Year 11 Instagram page which is effective for communication, however, students must not solely rely on Instagram as a means of receiving all vital communication.

### **Year 11 Leavers Prom and Year Book**

It is with regret that I have to inform you that the Year 11 Leavers' Prom that was due to take place in June has been cancelled. Given the current situation it is not possible for us to organise and run

this event. We are hopeful there may be an alternative event that we can organise to mark the end of the Year 11's time at King James's School once things return to normal, however, we can't make any firm commitments at this stage.

Mr Keeble and his team of helpers worked tirelessly to finish the Year Book before Lockdown and it is a great memento of the students time at King James's School. The deadline for payments for a copy of the Year Book is 12pm 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020 and all payments must be made via ParentPay. Please note that no further copies can be ordered after this date. Further details of the date that we will receive the Year Books and how they will be distributed will be communicated out in due course.

Thanks again for your support for the school at this challenging time. Please do contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,



Mr CA Sugden  
Headteacher