

3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parent/Carers and Students

I am writing this message from my office at school as we maintain a small number of staff in school for any students of critical workers who require supervision. It is rather strange seeing the empty classrooms and corridors and missing the usual hustle and bustle of our daily school lives.

As we finish our second week of school 'closure' and enter the Easter Holiday period, I wanted to make contact with all members of the school community and give you a few updates:

### **GCSE and A-Level Grade Awards**

Ofqual have made a further announcement about how grades will be awarded this summer and I have communicated this information separately to Y11 and Y13 students and parents. I have included a link to the announcement below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcses-as-and-a-level-awarding-summer-2020>

At the moment, the situation for Year 10 RS is unclear as the information says Ofqual will be consulting on their proposal that students who would have sat a GCSE examination in Year 10 should complete the exam in a later series. As soon as I have clarification on this and whether the examination would be in the autumn or in the summer series 2021, we will communicate this to students and parents.

### **Student welfare support**

I'm sure we are all taking time to adjust to the current situation and I would like to draw student and parent attention to the update from Anna McQuade, our School Counsellor, and the 'It's ok to not be ok' flyer attached to this document. Anna provides some interesting thoughts and insights into coping with social isolation and the flyer contains sources of support available to students.

### **Free School Meals**

We will be continuing with the food box deliveries to students who receive free school meals and these will be delivered to homes on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April and Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April. I realise the financial situation may have changed significantly for some of our families and this may mean they are now eligible for free school meals, which also brings additional funding into school through the pupil premium to support these students to progress. Further information about eligibility can be found at:

<http://www.sghs.org.uk/our-school/send/pupil-premium/>



## **Year 12 Trial Exams**

We have made the decision to postpone the internal trial examinations for Year 12 until September. Mr Blythe, Learning Director: Post 16, will be communicating directly with students about this.

I wish you all as restful an Easter as is possible and would like to thank the whole school community once again for their support during this time. If you haven't had a chance, please do keep an eye out for the PE and Music challenges and do have a look at some of the excellent Art our students have been producing from home. There is a gallery of student work on the website home page and on Firefly.

Best wishes



Mark Turner  
Head of Academy

## **Parent and student survey of on-line learning feedback - from Mr Hoyle**

We surveyed students and parents for their views on how they had found distance learning. We had a great response with over 250 parents responding and 350 students, so thank you for taking the time to respond. 90% of students and 96% of parents feel that Firefly has been helpful for the learning process. Nearly all students and parents feel that they are continuing to make progress with their learning and a big thank you to all staff for ensuring work has been set for each lesson and at the right time.

Students have reported that they prefer it when the work is broken down into lesson-sized chunks and initially felt they were getting too much work. This does seem to have settled during the second week so thank you for being mindful of this as we have all continued to learn.

We have discussed all the feed-back with senior leaders and Learning Directors and it has been really useful as we continue to plan and refine what we are doing to support our students learning at home during the school closure.