

25th March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I just wanted to make contact to provide a couple of updates as we work through the first few days since school closed to the vast majority of students. Parents of students in Year 10-13 received separate communication from me yesterday around the Government's announcement on GCSE and A-Level grading.

Firefly

As you will be aware, we have been experiencing some problems with Firefly as it has struggled to cope with the number of students using the platform. We have been assured a significant upgrade to capacity has been made and the platform should now run much better. We will monitor this over the coming days and let parents and students know if we need to change the way we set work. Microsoft Teams has been functioning well for the video conferencing element that is being used in some lessons.

Predicted grade requests

We have had a number of students and parents contacting individual teachers asking what the predicted grade they will be submitting to examination boards will be. Whilst I absolutely understand why students are asking this and the anxiety they may be feeling, please can I ask that students and parents refrain from this. We are not in a position to provide this whilst Ofqual is in further discussions with the exam boards and teachers about their proposals for awarding grades. As soon as I can provide any further updates I will communicate it to Year 11 and Year 13 students and parents.

Reports and parents' evenings

Just to confirm that the Year 10 parents' evening scheduled for 21st April will be postponed. We are also postponing Year 10 and Year 12 reports until later in the academic year as we work through the best mechanism for feeding back on student learning and progress during the school closure period.

Contact information

Further to the information that came out on Friday, whilst we are trying to maintain answering the main school phone line during the day this is becoming increasingly challenging as we have had to minimise the number of staff in school. We are checking the sghs@sghs.org.uk e-mail throughout the day so please do feel free to use this for queries as well.

Guidance on staying at home and away from others

We have been asked if we can remind all members of the school community about the vital importance of following the **Government advice on staying at home and away from others**. It is crucial we all play our part in this to protect the NHS and others in society. A link below is provided to the latest advice:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/full-guidance-on-staying-at-home-and-away-from-others>



Finally, a huge thank you from me to all our parents/carers, students and staff who are working together to help each other through these challenging times. I realise it is difficult for many parents trying to keep up with work and supervise children at the same time but want to thank you for everything you are doing.

I will keep in touch with further updates as we go along. Do keep an eye out for the information from the PE team on their daily challenges which all students, parents/carers and staff can take part in!

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Turner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Mark Turner
Head of Academy