



Our ref: SWH/lti

23rd April 2020

Dear Year 11

I hope you are all well and finding a new normal in these strange times. We know that many of you are concerned about what is happening with your GCSE results and feel robbed of some of the highlights of Year 11, this letter is to update you on some of these matters. If you have any questions about this information, please email Mr Lee or Mr White, or speak to your College Leader.

Predicted grades and reports

We were due to have parents evening and report at the end of last term, with you receiving your predicted grades from the PPE exams in February.

There has been updated guidance from the Department for Education, in which schools and colleges have been told that they: *'must not share their centre assessment grades with students, parents or carers, under any circumstances, until after final results are issued. This is to protect the integrity of centres' judgements, and to avoid anyone feeling under pressure to submit a grade that is not supported by the evidence'*.

You might already know the grade you achieved in a PPE exam or paper from your class teacher, which is fine, however in light of this new advice we will not be sending you a report with the predicted grades. The DFE has also confirmed that GCSE results will be published on the 20th August as previously planned. With the situation around social distancing, we do not yet know how you will receive these results, but we will let you know in due course.

Keeping up good study habits

Just to confirm the letter that you were sent prior to Easter, we will no longer be setting you work to complete for all your GCSE, BTEC and Cambridge Technical courses. This includes any components of the course such as BTEC assignments, speaking exams and art coursework. There have been several students submitting work to teachers try and show that they are working at a given GCSE grade. While teachers are happy to take in your work and give you feedback, we cannot use it as evidence to move your teacher prediction up this summer.

We strongly advise all students to keep up good study habits over the next four months prior to starting sixth form or college. To help you we will be posting some Post-16 preparation work on the Year 11 hub. These resources cover a range of different Post-16 courses and should help you to prepare for the next stage in your education. We recommend that you get into a routine of doing weekly tasks from the resources, with the amount of time you give to these tasks being set by you.

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I would recommend this especially if you think it is likely that you will be resitting Maths or English GCSE in college as you may not achieve a grade 4 this summer, there will be resit opportunities in November for some students. If you are thinking of doing A-levels I would also recommend that you focus your independent work on areas that will be relevant to you.

Learning platforms which you are used to such as Tassomai, Hegarty and Seneca will remain open to you, but there is no longer an expectation that you will complete a set number of hours or daily goals. As an alternative to the post-16 prep work that we are setting you, you might want to try something different. There are several online sites offering free courses and it would be a great time to learn a new skill or get a qualification. There are some good offers on website such as Groupon and there are also free online courses available from sites such as <https://www.mooc.org/>

Post 16 applications

A number of you have been in touch about your Post-16 applications. All sixth forms centres and colleges are still taking applications. You will need to contact them directly, either by email or by phone. If you are looking to change course, you will need to phone the provider to discuss this, they will usually offer a phone interview and then send you the relevant changes in your course offer. If you have missed an interview for any reason, make sure that you phone the provider to arrange a phone interview and get registered for September. If you are unsure what to do from September or if you are having problems applying for courses, email our Careers Adviser, Mrs Fielding JFielding@hansprice.org.uk and she will contact you.

If you currently have an offer of an apprenticeship, it is a good idea to contact your potential sponsor and check they will still be taking you on in September. If your apprenticeship is at risk, make sure you apply for a back-up course just in case. Finally, a reminder that Winterstoke Hundred Academy is accepting applications for September and details can be found on the website <https://winterstokehundredacademy.clf.uk>

Please make sure you access the work available to you on the Year 11 hub and get in touch if you have any concerns about the information in this letter.

Most importantly, stay safe.

Best wishes

Simon White

Chris Lee

Mr White
Assistant Principal

Mr Lee
Head of Yr11