

5th January 2021

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

I will be writing to all parents following the Government's announcement last night but wanted to contact Year 11 parents as soon as possible with an important message.

We now understand that schools across England will be closed to all but vulnerable students and children of key workers until early February. Learning will be moved online and our staff will ensure that there is the highest quality teaching and resources provided for all students in all subjects.

Given the amount of contradictory information we have received over the last few weeks, I thought it would be useful to write to you to confirm plans as they stand.

I'd like to restate the wording from Prime Minister Boris Johnson: *"It's not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal. The Education Secretary will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements."*

It is our understanding that 'alternative arrangements' are very likely to include some subject examination papers, along with teacher-based assessments including mock examinations and independent tasks, coursework and non-examined assessments (NEA). However, it will take time for the Education Secretary to work through the new arrangements.

To this end, it is of vital importance that your child does not receive the message that exams are cancelled, and learning can stop. Students must continue to work hard and learn in every GCSE subject. This means Year 11 students should, perhaps now more than ever, continue to attend all live remote lessons (starting Wednesday 6th January) and focus on demonstrating the very best of themselves in the work they produce. This will put the school in the strongest possible position when we are asked to evidence the high grades that our students need and deserve to be able to access high quality post-16 provision.

Give these arrangements, if you still require a device to access online learning and have not yet collected one, please email my Assistant Principal (daniel.mcewen@evelyngraceacademy.org) directly to arrange for you and your child to come to school and take one home.

I will share further information with you as soon as it is received from the Department for Education. In the meantime, **the message should be crystal clear – carry on learning.**

Thank you as always for your support and please don't hesitate to contact the main school reception should you need us.

With every good wish,



Tim Dainty - Principal

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