



23 March 2020

Dear Parent or Carer,

### **Coronavirus Update**

Today has marked the first day of our College closure, with an extremely small number of students on site. However, staff have been busy planning distance learning and ensuring we are able to rota staff to have some limited on site presence this week and over the Easter holidays.

There are some updates below regarding;

- exercise books and distance learning
- exams
- parent voice meeting Tuesday 24 March
- free school meals

### **Exercise Books and Distance Learning**

We want to try to ensure students studying exam courses in Y10 and Y12 can have their exercise books and folders to help them work from home. Staff setting work online may wish at times for students to add to notes in these books or refer to them.

We will arrange this week for books to be available for collection by parents and carers. We would prefer students remain at home and practice social distancing. Therefore parents and carers (or friends or family) will be able to collect and sign for their daughter or son's books for Y10 and Y12. This should be available from Wednesday, we will give details tomorrow.

### **Exams and Grading**

Following the cancellation of the exam series, the DfE has given some limited information on the process for deciding grades this year. Thank you to parents and carers for being patient in this matter- given the current lack of detail individual teachers are not able to respond to queries on predicted or calculated grades at this time.

*The DfE will be using a calculated grade process to award students' their formal grades in 2020.*

*The DfE calculated grade process will take into account a range of evidence including, for example, non-exam assessment and mock results, and the approach will be standardised between schools and colleges.*

*Ofqual is working urgently with the exam boards to set out proposals for how this process will work and will be talking to teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that the approach taken is as fair as possible.*

*Ofqual will make every effort to ensure that the process agreed does not disadvantage any particular group of students. The calculated grades awarded will be formal grades, with the same status as grades awarded in any other year.*

*For A Level students, university representatives have already confirmed that they expect universities to be flexible and do all they can to support students and ensure they can progress to higher education.*

*Pupils who do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as is reasonably possible after schools and colleges open again.*

### **Parent Voice Meeting Tuesday March 24 5-6pm**

Our usual parent voice meeting will take place online via Google Meets tomorrow at 5pm. We will email joining instructions to all parents and post them on the website on Tuesday morning. This will be an opportunity to ask questions directly to myself and members of the College team.

### **Free School Meals**

Thank you again for your patience in this matter. We are on track to have the first weekly food parcels ready for collection from the College tomorrow, Tuesday 24 March. Parcels will be available from 11am at Ariel Reception.

Once again, thank you for your support and help as we adjust to this very unusual situation. If you are not receiving communications from the College please check your junk preference settings on email and do not hesitate to contact the College should we need to update your details.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Salt', written in a cursive style.

Alan Salt  
Principal