



3/7/20

Dear Parent or Carer,

I hope this update finds you well. There has certainly been a lot of press coverage this week around education and schools. This short update hopefully will give you a clear sense of what is going on in a complex and continually changing situation.

### 1. GCSE and A-level Exams in 2021

Yesterday the exams regulator **OFQAL launched a consultation** on changes to exams for next summer. The consultation finishes on 16 July and we will have the results of it and a final OFQAL position sometime in August.

The proposals for consultation are broadly:

- No change in content for **A-levels**
- No change in content for **GCSE English, Maths and Science**
- Some **reductions in content** and course requirements for certain GCSEs; e.g. geography, history, art, computer science
- A **delay to the start of the exam season** for GCSEs and possibly A-levels until 7 June (exams would usually begin on 17 May).

Parents and carers might like to note that the delay in the start of the exam season would give **10 extra school days** than is usual.

Although this is a consultation, it is clear that if these arrangements are adopted the vast majority of content and teaching will still have to be covered for GCSEs, and all A-level content will need to be covered.

This will provide a **significant challenge** to schools across the country. However, please be assured that we will **work tirelessly** to make sure students get the best possible teaching to help make up for the impact of lockdown. We will **reassure students to be positive** and that working together we will address any gaps in their knowledge resulting from the school closure.

### 2. Full Opening in September 2020

The Government yesterday released guidance which schools should use in planning to open to all year groups and students from September. This announcement has been heavily covered in the press, and I suspect parents and carers will have many questions and concerns, not least around safety measures the school will put in place, the 'bubbling' of students into groups, how school transport will operate, what happens if students do not attend school, and many more.

The guidance can be found in full here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools>

Along with students, parents and carers, we cannot wait to get back to 'normal' as soon as possible, and it will be great to be able to have students in class learning from their teachers and with their peers again.

However, given the guidelines, we would anticipate that **we will need to make some significant changes** to the how the school operates in order to maximise student and staff safety.

We are currently planning in detail what this will look like. We want to be able to share this with parents and carers as soon as possible, and hopefully at the end of next week or the start of the following. This will mean we still have time once it is shared for parents and carers to raise questions and have reassurance before we break for the summer holidays on 17 July.

Thank you to those of you who have already emailed with feedback and thoughts on the announcements this week. We all share the desire to be able to give our young people certainty about what school will be like in September, and once we have finished our detailed planning, we will make sure you have it.

Thanks again for your patience and understanding in this matter.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Salt', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alan Salt  
**Principal**