



Our Ref: IBN/KON

26 March 2020

ALL YEAR 10 STUDENTS

Dear Students

I hope you are all keeping well in these difficult circumstances. I think for some of you the novelty of staying at home is already beginning to wear however, it is important that we keep the bigger picture in mind. As you may be aware I will be taking over from Mr Fox as your GCSE Strategy Leader (as you are approaching Year 11), so I thought now would be the perfect time to contact you and remind you to continue to do your absolute best to stay on top of your studies.

What do we expect from you now?

As yet we are unsure when we will be returning to school so the expectation is that you will be following your normal timetable and completing all tasks set for you on Go4Schools. It is vital that you keep up with your lessons. Having a good routine will make a massive difference, not only to your GCSE grades, come this time next year, but also to your wellbeing. Please do not let the work pile up as this will disadvantage you in the long run. You are only half way through your GCSE courses and what you do in the coming weeks will all make a big difference. Should you have any queries you can contact your teacher by email and they will respond.

How will your teachers help?

Your teachers will set all your lessons on Go4Schools. They may set them as a block or as individual lessons. Make sure you spend the complete hour working through the tasks set. You will receive a Curriculum Briefing sheet once a fortnight. There will be lots of non-required work there that will compliment the work you are doing. They will mark key identified assessments (but not any notes you are making as part of the tasks set). This way they will get a good understanding of the progress you are making. Your teachers will also respond to emails.

Religious Studies Exam Results

Some of you have contacted me regarding your Religious Studies exam. Please be aware that the official guidance from the Government is that exams including GCSEs will **not** go ahead this summer. For you, this means that **you will not be sitting your Religious Studies GCSE exam** in May. However, since you have already been entered we will follow the same procedures as we are for Year 11. At present this is the most recent guidance we have from the Department of Education is as below.

Outlining how the grade allocation process will work, the DfE says in its statement:

"Ofqual will develop and set out a process that will provide a calculated grade to each student which reflects their performance as fairly as possible, and will work with the exam boards to ensure this is consistently applied for all students."

"The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.

"To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly this will be provided to schools and colleges.

"The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.

"Ofqual and exam boards will be discussing with teachers' representatives before finalising an approach, to ensure that it is as fair as possible. More information will be provided as soon as possible."

IMPORTANT - In light of the above, we ask that you all keep your mock exams that have been returned to you by your teachers as well as any other key pieces of assessment. It would be best for you to keep all your work until your final grade allocation has been made. Please rest assured that as your teachers, we know you well and will be completely honest about your capabilities and as soon as we are able to give you further information, we will do so.

Religious Studies Lessons

This means that you will no longer be following the R.S. GCSE curriculum. The original plan was always to move onto additional English lessons as soon as the exam was completed. This can now happen a bit earlier than expected and you can spend time completing tasks set by your English teacher when you have your Religious Studies lessons.

Please note that although you are not sat in front of us, you are very much in our thoughts and I am confident that, despite these hurdles, the Class of 2021 will achieve some amazing exam results. Please check your emails regularly for any further updates. Make sure you follow government guidance and look after your family and friends where you can. Stay safe and keep well.

Yours sincerely

I Bassan

Mrs I Bassan
Assistant Head Teacher