

Our Ref: SDN/KON

22 March 2020

ALL YEAR 11 STUDENTS

Dear Students

It is with an incredibly heavy heart that we have had to announce last Friday as our last day for Year 11, although Year 11 are still an important part of this school for the remainder of this academic year. This decision has not been taken lightly at all and I know how hard you have worked in preparation for your exams. The official guidance from the government is that exams including GCSEs will not go ahead this summer.

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."

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.

Although this is not how you envisaged this term please be aware that all of you will still have an opportunity to celebrate your time at Dormston. We shall be holding a Prom which will incorporate your Leaver's Assembly. If possible we will stick to our original date but if not we will still ensure the Prom happens because we know how much you are all looking forward to this, as are we.

It must be very strange being at home when you would normally be at school and many of you must be feeling like the ground has been taken from beneath your feet. With no exams to prepare for you must be wondering what to do with your time and some of you may be feeling uncertain about your future and your next steps. Please be assured that we will do all we can to help you to get your college/ apprenticeship/ traineeship places. If you need further assistance please see the PowerPoint on the school website under daily update, careers resources, Year 11. We will keep you updated once further education establishments have liaised with us and have a clearer indication of their next steps.

Although this is an uncertain time, it is important to realise that as young people you can take advantage of this in a positive way. Many of you have already told me of all the things they have planned to do which include: helping your local community, supporting family and friends, learning a new skills and developing your CV. All of these are great ways in which you can utilise your time in the coming weeks.

As Year 11 students you are still part of Dormston School and therefore I would like to remind you that your Form Tutor, Head of House and Deputy Head of House and I are all available via email. If you need somebody else to talk to please go on our website under Safeguarding > Wellbeing where you will find lots of information. Remember your welfare is important to us and we will continue to support you in any way we can.

Yours sincerely



Mrs I Bassan
Assistant Head Teacher