

Dear parents/carers and students,

This letter is to provide an update for Year 12 students, following the closure of schools and colleges.

We recognise that much of the focus in the last couple of weeks has understandably been on students due to complete qualifications this year. However, Year 12 students are just as important to us and we want to make sure that learning can continue as much as possible, despite the challenging circumstances we all face.

It is important to emphasise that we expect that Year 12 students will continue to be assessed on the full breadth of content within their courses at the end of Year 13, and that BTEC students will be expected to have fully completed all of the units within their courses. As such, it is vital that students and staff make the best possible use of study time over the coming weeks and months. This is not time we can afford to lose if students are to achieve the very best possible grades at the end of Year 13.

Teaching will be supported through distance-learning activities and it is vital that students engage fully with this work. We are proud of our students and we know that they will engage with this distance-learning with energy, positivity and maturity. Where there are concerns, teachers, progress tutors and senior leaders will address matters with students and parents in all the usual ways, and we will continue to use the pastoral log within Cedar to make a record of support, actions and concerns. Full engagement with learning in the weeks ahead will be a requirement for all Year 12 students in order to progress into Year 13.

It remains our intention that all students will complete progression exams at the end of Year 12, in order that we can ensure that it is appropriate for students to continue to a second year of study with their chosen courses. We are very hopeful that these exams will still take place before the summer, but we recognise that they might potentially need to move to the start of the autumn term. Either way, progression exams will continue to be of critical importance. Students should be working hard to revise and prepare for them from this point onwards, alongside the distance-learning they are completing, and the work that is directed by teachers.

The following few months are going to be a strange and sometimes difficult time for all of us. Sustaining learning, engaging with teachers and keeping in touch with fellow students are valuable and important ways of helping students to maintain a sense of normality, structure and support. We want students to retain a strong sense of purpose and stay physically and mentally well during this time. If students, parents or carers have any worries or concerns, we would encourage you to contact progress tutors or teachers in all the normal ways.

We would like to offer our thanks to students, parents and carers at this time. It will take all of us a little time to adjust to this temporary way of working and we expect some glitches along the way, but with resilience and a shared commitment, we know we can make a success of it.

We will continue to keep you updated as and when further information becomes available or if arrangements are adjusted in light of circumstances and government guidance.

Yours sincerely,

Trust Executive Team