

22 April 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the beginning of the summer term. I would like to use this letter to outline the focus of our online curriculum during this next half term, and how we are going to develop the ways we deliver this curriculum.

Year 9 will concentrate on two different areas this half term: 1) pupils will continue with the Year 9 curriculum and be introduced to new ideas and skills that they have not covered before; 2) pupils will review previous work in preparation for Year 9 Assessments that will take place in the last two weeks before the half term break. These assessments will replace the examination week; there will be one for each subject and they will sample the work pupils have covered over the year. More details about dates, format and timings of these assessments will be shared in the coming weeks.

To help pupils prepare for these assessments, teachers will set lessons and homework that revisits the topics they have studied over the last year. Some of this work will be submitted online and pupils will be given formative feedback that will help them develop their skills before the assessments.

We will continue to create bespoke lessons for Year 9 pupils. We are training staff to use technology to enable them to support pupils' learning, such as placing audio commentaries on lessons. At this point there are no plans to introduce live streaming such as Zoom. We are aware of online resources such as 'The Oak National Academy' and 'BBC Bitesize' that we may use if we believe they are relevant.

In the second half of the summer term, pupils will start their GCSE courses. Departments need this time to both introduce pupils to the rigors of the new courses and start delivering the content. Pupils will be reminded of their option choices and given a new timetable to follow.

Thank you for all your hard work! We realise that this is a challenging time for parents and carers and will continue to provide lessons and resources that give pupils structure to their day and develop their knowledge and understanding of the subjects they study.

Please continue to read for a message from your child's Head of Year.

Yours sincerely,

Neil Hart

Senior Assistant Headteacher

N/P Want

A message from Mr Gaisford (Head of Year 9)

Dear Parents Carers.

It was lovely speaking to most of you before Easter, and I hope you were able to find some comfort and relaxation during the holiday. I am acutely aware that this was probably as much a holiday for you parents and guardians from the trials and tribulations of home schooling, and I continue to thank you for your efforts in this area.

At the moment we are finalising the Options process, which has been taking considerable effort as you can imagine. In the next few weeks this will be finalised and I will of course then let you know your timetable. Now once again it is about settling back into a routine which works for you and your family, and if there is anything that you need please don't hesitate to get in contact.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Gaisford Head of Year 9