13 May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

## **Key Information**

What a half-term! It feels like it just began but already we are approaching the end. I have been moved by the warmth, support and encouragement of parents and carers and the kindness, drive and insightfulness of students as we have been in touch over the last few weeks and together, worked to improve communication. On behalf of the Year Team, thank you for all your support.

There are some important things to take note of as we approach the end of this half-term:

- 1. AS Grades The school has been working in accordance with guidance provided by Ofqual to ensure that Year 12 learners entered for public exams (enrolled on AS courses) for the academic year 2019/20 receive their qualifications. These students have officially completed their AS courses and will receive their results in August. They are not expected to continue working on their AS courses. This does not apply to students enrolled on A Level courses, who are expected to continue both AS and A2 work on which they will be assessed in 2021.
- 2. **End of Year Assessments** At this time of year, we usually have End of Year exams, which provides us with an accurate picture of our students' progress and outcomes. This will continue! Therefore, we expect Year 12 to prepare for End of Year assessments in the next half-term. The exact details will be provided later.
- 3. **Student Leadership** Our student leadership application process will begin this week and will conclude in the next half-term. Students will find the application form on SMHW, which they can also submit via SMHW or email. This process will run for approximately a week and we hope to process a shortlist before the end of this half-term or early into the next. SLT interviews will be arranged thereafter.
- 4. Scheduled Home-School Contact Times In keeping with our ambition to improve communication, the Year Team have agreed on specific contact times for phone calls home. The hope is that this will make contact easier, more manageable and more effective. Please note these times are a guide; not a restriction. When necessary, we will make contact outside of guided times. The times are Tuesdays (13:00-15:00hrs) and Wednesdays (10:00 12:00hrs).
- 5. **Using Zoom** To enhance our remote learning, many teachers are scheduling live lessons via Zoom. We understand that this is a new format and therefore, many hold reservations. Please rest assured that SLT have provided guidance on using these platforms for educational purposes. Moreover, it is important to recognise that parents, carers and students have autonomy on how they use these platforms. There are a variety of options; from not showing video, through muting audio, to privacy control settings. Still, the expectation is that, once a lesson is scheduled, students attend if possible.

6. **Weekly Tips & Tutor Tasks** – This week the Year Team have begun sharing weekly tips and setting tutor tasks. Our weekly tips come in the form of a short video recorded by the Year Team. Weekly tasks are usually set by tutors and simply require a short comment by tutees. We hope this will help us retain our sense of community.

Please, contact me if there are any queries!

Yours sincerely

Mr Spence

Mr Spence Head of Year 12 & Teacher of Religious Studies