

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

**COVID19 – Year 11 Parent Update 23.04.2020**

This week again, we have decided to provide a separate update for Year 11 parents in addition to the weekly letter to all of our families, as we are conscious that this is likely to be a particularly anxious time for you and your child.

**Year 11 Grades**

Further to the video link sent to you last week, Ofqual have now also published a message to students, which is attached. This offers further clarification on exams and grades and is particularly targeted at students. It is anticipated that the GCSE Results Day will remain on the 20<sup>th</sup> August but I am awaiting official confirmation of this.

In view of the changes to expectations this year and focus on Centre Assessed Grades, there will not be any reports or grade prediction information sent home to you this term.

**Apprenticeship Opportunities**

We have received notification of opportunities at the RD&E (below) which may be of interest to students considering healthcare professions. Some of our Year 11 students already attended an apprenticeship event hosted by the RD&E back in January and we are keen to continue to strengthen our career links with local healthcare providers.

*This email is to inform you that we will be launching our recruitment advert during the week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 for clinical healthcare apprentices. This is early due to the unprecedented times the NHS is facing currently.*

*The closing date for applications will be the 8th May 2020 UNLESS we have a large number of applicants in which case we will close the advert early.*

*Please create an account with NHS Jobs (where the apprenticeships will be advertised) and complete the required application.*

*Please note that we require Maths and English at grades C or above (Levels 4-9 with the new grading system) or Level 2 Functional Skills as an entry requirement. Please provide as much detail as possible in your application about any experience (this doesn't have to be in healthcare) and why you are interested. We understand the situation created due to Covid-19 and that exams may not be taken, but a formal grade from your schools/ awarding body will be required, once we know how this is going to be provided. Please make it clear what your predicted grades are at this point within your application. You will then be required to let us have your results sheet when this is issued later in the year but BEFORE the start date of your course if you are a successful applicant.*

*During these unusual times we anticipate that interviews and assessment will be carried out online/ remotely during the 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> or 28<sup>th</sup> May. Please do not worry if you do not have internet access we can discuss any specific requirements if you are invited to interview. Further guidance will be provided should you be selected following application.*

## **Post-16 Transition**

A reminder to encourage your children to keep checking emails and text messages for communications from their post-16 education providers. Please also remember to contact your post-16 provider if you or your child's contact details change so that you/they do not miss out on important transition information.

Mrs Jan Taylor, our Mentor and Post-16 Transition Co-ordinator, remains available to help with any queries or concerns you may have about transition to post-16 education. She can be contacted at: [jtaylor@iscaexeter.co.uk](mailto:jtaylor@iscaexeter.co.uk).

If your child is willing to share their contact information with Mrs Taylor, to allow her to provide personal support, as necessary, during the enrolment period, including reminding any students who may have missed their enrolment appointment, please complete the form using this link below:

[Year 11 Student Contact Details](#)

## **The Next Step**

In light of school closures and social distancing measures, it seems likely that our Year 11 students' time at Isca Academy may end rather more abruptly than usual this year. This is bound to feel like unfinished business for them and we remain committed to trying to offer our students the closure and send off which they have rightly earned during their time with us. This includes rescheduling their PROM when it is safe for us to do so, although obviously this may mean that this happens much later in the year.

We also hope that our students will continue to contribute to our school community, even when they have moved on to pastures new, and would like to invite them to think about joining our Isca Academy Alumni. They can do so simply by signing up to the Future First network at:

<https://networks.futurefirst.org.uk/signup/isca>

Through Future First, students can stay in touch with the school as they go through the next stages of their life. Not only does this provide an opportunity to remain connected with their former teachers and peers, it also allows them to inspire and help the next generation of students by sharing their insights into secondary school and beyond. It is also a nice addition to any CV! Students can be involved as much or as little as they would like, so do encourage them to sign up and stay part of the extended Isca Academy community.

We remain on hand to answer any questions you or your children may have, so please do not hesitate to contact my team, either directly using their email addresses (available on the school website) or by contacting the main school reception.

Please take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

**Miss Aimee Mitchell, Headteacher**