

16th April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

COVID19 – Year 11 Parent Update 16.04.2020

We appreciate that the impact of the current situation will be felt most acutely by Year 11 students and the next few weeks are bound to feel very uncertain. Although we are still navigating our way through these new challenges, I hope that the information below will be helpful in providing some clarity and reassurance for you and your children.

Year 11 Grades

Guidance has now been issued by Ofqual regarding GCSE Centre Assessed Grades and how these will be compiled, which is outlined in this short video:

[Ofqual Grading in 2020 Information for Students](#)

Work has already begun with our Heads of Department to progress this. Please bear in mind that we will not be permitted to share the grades with students or their families before they are submitted to Ofqual for standardisation across schools. So please can I ask that teachers are not asked directly for this information.

Similarly, mock GCSE examinations grades cannot yet be released pending moderation, a process which is obviously being slowed down by current social distancing measures. We appreciate that students will be keen to know how they have done so please encourage them to be patient. Teachers cannot release any information at this stage. Students must also bear in mind that mock examination results will only be one element of a much broader picture used to generate the Centre Assessed Grades.

Centre Assessed Grades will be based on work conducted thus far and no further assessment will be undertaken or considered from hereon which will influence the grades. Students who have not been able to complete any further work subsequent to school closures should be reassured, therefore, that they will not be disadvantaged. However, this does not mean students should lift their foot off the pedal! It is important that they continue to engage fully and make the most of the available on-line learning in preparation for the next phase in their education. Post-16 providers will be expecting students to have continued to develop their knowledge and skills to be ready for the transition. I would encourage all students to work closely with their teachers and tutors to ensure they are, and feel, as prepared as they can be. Maintaining a regular schedule and good study habits is key to this as well as supporting positive mental health and self-confidence. Our teachers will be uploading material to the Year 11 Google Classroom to prepare them for the next stage of their journey as well as to consolidate their existing knowledge.

Post-16 Transition

Just as we are, post-16 education providers are trying to adjust to the challenges which the current situation presents. We understand that providers will be contacting students individually with information, so please remind your child to check their emails and text messages regularly. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's post-16 education provider.

In terms of general messages from the two main local providers, we have received the following message from Mrs Kerry Balchin, our Exeter College Advisor (kerrybalchin@exe-coll.ac.uk), and a Q&A sheet from Bicton College, which is attached.

Exeter College -

Each year at enrolment we provide all students with activities to introduce them to their chosen subjects, which we call 'Flying Start'. Due to the current situation we have decided to bring this launch forward to after the Easter break. We will be sending out the 'Flying Start' information via email to all students that currently hold an offer to study at the college. We will also refer to these resources on our website and via social media.

After the May half term, we also plan to send out further pre-course activities to help students stay focused and motivated. Students will receive this via the email address that they used when they registered their online account/application with the College.

We are currently working remotely and are continuing to support all students' transition to Exeter College. As you will now be aware, all further events at the college have been cancelled, but the College Advice Team are still available to support learners via email or students can request a telephone call back to talk to one of our advisers. Please also review our college website for further updates here: <https://exe-coll.ac.uk/coronavirus-guidance-news/>

For those students who have been offered places with other providers, such as Exeter Maths Schools, The Maynard School or Petroc College, please contact the establishments directly if they have not already made contact with you.

If you are experiencing any difficulties in reaching your child's Post-16 education provider, or have any other questions or concerns about the transition, Mrs Jan Taylor, Isca Academy's Mentor and Post-16 Transition Co-ordinator (jtaylor@iscaexeter.co.uk), will be happy to help.

I hope the above answers some of the questions which you may have had about next steps. We will obviously continue to keep you informed as new guidance and updates reach us and my team remain on hand to provide assistance and advice as needed so please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Miss Aimee Mitchell, Headteacher