



Thursday 19th March, 2020.

Dear Year 11,

It is with great sadness that I write this letter, as current circumstances might result in your time at school being cut short as the government seek to manage the national outbreak of the Coronavirus.

I want to be clear that we will not allow these circumstances to bring your time at Penketh to such an abrupt end. Sadly, we're not in a position to be able to conduct a gathering of the year group tomorrow for two reasons; firstly because current guidance prevents us from doing so and secondly because some of your year group are currently missing from school; it wouldn't be right to conduct this without the entire year group present.

We will, in the coming months, ensure that we have opportunities to celebrate your time at Penketh and hold events that provide opportunities for you to all come together as a year group again. We will ensure that you have a Prom, you deserve one. In an ideal world this would be as planned, but we have to accept that this might be at a different point in the future.

You have made such a contribution to the school and you are all an incredibly important part of our school community, who will be missed greatly; but we will have opportunities to come together and reflect on your time at school.

You will, I know, be understandably concerned about your GCSE examinations. You have worked so incredibly hard and really taken ownership for both your learning and your success. Regardless of what conclusion is reached by the government regarding your examinations you should be exceptionally proud of your efforts – we are! I want you to know that we will be working tirelessly on your behalf to ensure that you get the qualifications that you deserve.

It's really important that you approach the coming weeks and months in the right way. The initial temptation for some of you might be to view the next few weeks as a longer holiday but this is the wrong attitude to adopt. Learning is so much more than a set of grades from an exam paper. Yes your qualifications are important, yes the exams are what you've been building up to for months and years; but learning is about your development. Learning is about acquiring skills and knowledge that equip you for future challenges and a successful life. So keep working hard and interacting with the resources we post on Teams, at the very least this will help with preparation for any delay to examinations that the government might plan. Continuing to work will also help best prepare you for the challenge that college brings next year and prevent any detrimental impact to your transition.

We will ensure that you are kept updated with any developments as soon as we receive any guidance. I look forward to seeing you in the near future and having the chance to celebrate your successes. Work hard and look after yourselves and those around you.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin
Principal.

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