



BEVERLEY HIGH SCHOOL



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Dear Year 11/ Parents and Carers,

Due to the recent announcements regarding lockdown on Monday 4th January it is inevitable that many Year 11 students and parents will be anxious about the impact on the GCSEs and the future. The statement did say that the GCSEs cannot go ahead in the normal way. The details regarding the replacement process as of yet have not been released and may take a little while. At this stage, I would like to give you some reassurance and guidance on the working towards the future.

As you will be aware the GCSEs did not take place last year. The replacement process of Centre Assessed Grades, in which teachers predicted outcomes based on all the assessment to date, was found to be robust. Due to the strength of the school's prior success with academic results all students received their estimated grade or higher following national moderation. Although we cannot be sure at this point, it is expected that centre assessed grades will play a part in the awarding of GCSEs. There will also probably still be some form of official in school assessment. Regardless of the approach that Ofqual take in administering the awarding of qualifications we will support you and continue to put your best interests first.

Immediately many of you will have become concerned that you might not have performed as well on a piece of work as you would have liked or that an absence might affect your results unduly. Please try to keep things in perspective and stay calm. Teacher assessments are made on all the available information. This involves every lesson, questions answered in class, any short tests or opportunities for feedback and can give teachers valuable information about your learning. Often in a lesson, students say 'I know this is a silly question but...' this tells the teacher firstly where you are at with your understanding at that moment but more importantly how you make sure that you fully understand. Many of these subtleties are considered negatively by students but recognised for their positivity by staff. In addition, students rarely acknowledge that an uncharacteristic mistake or low score is more prominent in their mind than in the teachers or that many of the group may also have made the same mistake as it was a question designed to probe the more challenging material. In short, try not to worry.

What can you do to make sure that you do as well as you can? In the future, whether it be further studies, apprenticeships or employment, you will need a good foundation of knowledge and skills. You should endeavour to maintain your studies and balance it with wellbeing. Attend your lessons on line and pick up the valuable knowledge and skills you need. Ask questions when necessary and complete assessments honestly so that staff can give you the best advice and help possible. Inevitably, on the whole students that have a positive approach to their studies learn better than those who do not. Equally inevitably, sixth forms, colleges and employers are seeking students that are positive and have the right approach. Use this opportunity to develop the skills that you need in



addition to your learning such as self-motivation, discipline, over-coming difficulties, time management and self-regulation.

Please bear in mind that you are not alone in two respects. There were 600 000 students affected by last year's exam changes and a similar amount will be this year. There is no doubt that several school years to come will feel the effect of the current situation. If you find that this perspective is not easing your anxiety then we are still here to help. You can still contact your teachers and tutor. The Wellbeing team are still available to help you. The situation is not quite how we imagined it would be but you will get through it and we are here to support you to do that.

We will contact you as soon as we have more information and keep you up to date in the future. Stay safe, look after each other and your mental health

Regards

P Cork

Peter Cork
Assistant Headteacher

