



1st June 2020

Dear Student,

First and foremost, I hope this letter finds you and your families well. I also hope you enjoyed your week off for half-term, managed to enjoy the wonderful weather and, for those who celebrated it, managed to have a very enjoyable Eid.

As we move into the final half term of the academic year, it is becoming ever more clear that it is unlikely that we will be able to welcome those students in Years 7-9 back into the building before September. It is crucial therefore, that you continue to work remotely, completing the online work or work packs your teachers are setting for you. I know that this term many of you will be contributing to our "Experience Miscellany" and I cannot wait to see how you choose to express yourselves within it.

Working remotely undoubtedly has its challenges and we appreciate all your efforts to engage as well as you can. This engagement is absolutely crucial as the work covered, even during lockdown, will ultimately be needed for your final assessments in the future, no matter what format they take. Indeed, this year's introduction of "Centre Assessment" means that it is entirely possible that how hard you work, both throughout lockdown and your arrival back into school, will directly contribute to the overall grades you are awarded at the end of Year 11. The truth is, nobody quite knows what the future will look like, so please make sure you are fully prepared for whatever comes our way by always giving 100%.

I also want to take this opportunity to remind you that, no matter what, we are always here for you. It is possible that many of you are finding lockdown incredibly challenging. You will have concerns, fears and uncertainty relating to many aspects of the world you now find yourselves in. This is only natural, but we are here for you. No matter how small, trivial or insignificant you might think your worries are, please rest assured that we don't think they are small. We don't think they are trivial. We don't think anything you worry about is insignificant.

We will continue to keep in touch through our regular phone calls and will also continue to send you weekly newsletters from your Head of Year. I will also continue to be in touch throughout the half term letting you know what is happening with regards to school and your ultimate return. Until then,

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remember the values that are at the heart of all we do:

- Show compassion to everyone that you interact with. Now, more than ever, we don't know what they have been going through.
- Be honest with yourself and everyone else. Are you doing the very best you can right now?
- Have integrity in all that you do. Now is the time to be the best version of yourself you can be.
- Strive for excellence. The world may be changing and adapting, but these changes should never be the basis of excuses and should never prevent you from doing your best in every endeavour you undertake.

Stay safe. Stay well. Stay in touch.

I look forwardly to hopefully seeing you all again very soon.

With very best wishes,



Stuart Rees

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