



Tomlinscote School

19th March 2020

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers

The sudden news last night about the cancellation of Year 11 examinations was a 'bombshell' for everyone concerned. I really feel for Year 11 who have worked so hard this year to reach their potential and peak at the right time. The frustration, anger and anxiety was so evident in the many email contacts I had last night and conversations that I have had with Year 11 students today. I understand how you feel as parents and carers, because there are still so many unanswered questions at the moment.

I have spoken to Year 11 this morning and expressed that Tomlinscote is so proud of them and what they have achieved whilst at the school. I stressed that we heard the news at the same time as everyone and no-one knows at the moment how the grades will be determined. I am hopeful that the Government will ensure that Year 11s receive the qualifications they all deserve. The Year 11 students and parents will be the first to be informed when we are made aware.

I think it is important that the students enjoy their last two days at Tomlinscote. Our intention is to keep things as normal as possible. The following is the schedule for Year 11:

Thursday 19 th March	P1-P6	Two assemblies with Mr Major. Creative Media exam goes ahead. Drama practicals go ahead. Lessons continue.
Friday 20 th March	P1-P2 P3 End of P3/12.00	Maths mock exam goes ahead. Students go to the Bee Hive for hot chocolate/a drink and a biscuit/cake. Students sign their shirts and take photos. Students will go home.

I made the decision that they should still sit their second Maths mock. This was due to the following:

- All students have been revising and working towards these exams
- I received many requests to continue with them
- If we are required to make predictions in the future, then the more information we have the more we can help our Year 11 students. I would like to stress that one exam result would never be used in isolation – it would be a part of a package of information so that staff are better informed.

I also felt that the students should have a celebration point to mark their Year 11. The hot chocolate/cake/shirt signing/photos will provide a happy ending in the circumstances. Year 11 will leave the site at approx. 12 noon and should go straight home. It is important that they do not hang around in parks or shops at this time and follow the Government advice regarding social distancing.

(continued)

The Celebration Assembly and Prom will need to be cancelled. However, I have informed Year 11 that we will hold a celebration event to celebrate their time at the school. I will be speaking to Year 11 to see what they would like this to look like and hopefully it will occur before the summer holidays.

I will keep you updated in the following weeks with all the relevant information. Your son/daughter is part of the Tomlinscote Community and we will do whatever we can to support them at this difficult time and also to ensure that they have a smooth transition as they progress into the next stage of their life.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Major
Principal