

## Briefing for Year 11 Students – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March

### Summary of Government Announcement on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March

- **All schools will close** from tomorrow (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March). At Lord's Hill we will close at the normal time on Friday.
- Schools will **remain open to some more vulnerable children, and those who are children of key workers**. This includes Year 11 students. NHS, police, delivery drivers are examples of key workers, and we are awaiting further details on this.
- There will be **no exams** this year.

### Key Messages to Year 11 Students

- **These decisions have been made to save lives**. Students should be proud that you are supporting the national effort. Nothing is more important than the health of our loved ones.
- Year 11 education remains the academy's number 1 priority.
- There is a lot of detail below the headline of 'exams cancelled'. Although exams have been cancelled in May and June, **students will still receive qualifications and no student will be disadvantaged**. Some exams may still take place at a later time, for example in the autumn term. So learning must continue.
- I want year 11 students in school to give your best self on Thursday and Friday to **celebrate their time at Lord's Hill**, and also to support any predicted grade judgements. If these indeed are your last two days, be nice to each other and leave on a high.
- **The Prom will go ahead** somewhere, sometime!
- **I am writing to Year 11 parents** this morning to inform them of the situation and how we are responding as an academy.
- If you think you are the **son or daughter of a key worker**, then please contact Mr Forder today, either in person or by email.
- If you are concerned or worried, **speak to or contact a member of staff today**. We are here to help and you are our number 1 priority.

### More Detail on Exams

Whilst I appreciate this will come as a massive shock, I want to reassure students that we had anticipated this and all is by no means lost. The headline will be "exams cancelled", but there are three other critical elements to it which I would urge all students to note:

**"Recognition"**: The government promised clearly that all students in Y11 will receive the recognition they deserve for their hard work, and qualifications will be awarded. This suggests some sort of teacher assessment, based on predicted grades, although to be clear I do not know what this is yet and we will have to wait for more information.

**"Progression"**: The government said clearly that "no student should pause their ambitions" to progress to Sixth Form or university next year. Schools and universities will adjust, and work off the new system that is in place.

**"Fairness & Appeals"**: As students will not have the ability to sit an exam, and qualifications will be awarded via some other mechanism, the government was clear that this will be done fairly and that parents and students will be able to appeal this, if they feel the eventual award has not been fair.