



In Partnership to Educate, Nurture & Empower

Abbey Grange C of E Academy

Butcher Hill
Leeds
LS16 5EA

Tel: 0113 275 7877

Fax: 0113 2754784

Website: www.abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk

Email: info@abbeygrangeacademy.co.uk

Co-CEO: Ms Catherine Garrett

Co-CEO: Mrs Helen Pratten

Principal: Mr Jon Norden

19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer of our Year 11 and 13 students

Although we knew that exams might be affected by coronavirus, it was still quite a surprise when the government announced last night that GCSE and A level exams would not go ahead this May and June. We are therefore today dealing with students in Years 11 and 13 who have already done a lot of work towards their qualifications, and who feel very unsure about what this announcement actually means.

Many valid questions are raised by this decision for which, at present, we do not have answers, so our very clear message to students in Years 11 and 13 is to carry on as normal with the work that teachers are asking them to do. Until we have further clarification about how students will be assessed and grades awarded, it would be dangerous to down tools and disrupt the progress that has already been achieved. I am therefore asking for your support in backing this message with your own child, particularly as we move to school closure next week, and students being asked to complete work remotely.

This continues to be a fast moving situation and I hope that we will have more clarity soon. I have copied below the message that we have delivered to our year 11 students this morning, and I know that Mr Golding has said something very similar to our Year 13 students. Please show this to your child if they have not attended school today.

Thank you for being in school today. As you know, we will be closing at the end of the day on Friday for what might be quite a long time. In addition, the government has announced that GCSE and A level exams will not go ahead in May and June this year, but that students will get the qualifications that they need.

This news raises a lot of questions: How will exam boards decide what grade you get? Will you need to finish any coursework or controlled assessments? Will there be a period of time when you are back in school this year which teachers will be able to use to help make decisions about your grades? Will exams need to be sat at a later date?



We genuinely don't have any answers for these at the moment, which means it is particularly important that at the moment you carry on working – making the most of these last 2 days at school, and then continuing to do work that your teachers set from next Monday. I am sure that some of you may be tempted to think that there is nothing more that you can do, but we don't know that yet, and don't want any of you to throw away all the good progress that you have made so far.

As we get further information, we will pass it on to you, but in the meantime it has to be business as usual.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Norden', written in a cursive style.

Jon Norden
Principal