

12 January 2021

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers,

**Re: Update from Senior Academy**

I trust that this letter finds you and your family safe, well and in good health. Once again, we find ourselves in the situation where we are relying on remote learning and working in a very different way to that to which we are used. Let me take this opportunity to thank you for your support and help with encouraging your child to access the online learning we are providing. Fortis Senior Academy staff are working tirelessly to ensure that our provision is second to none and I hope that you and your children are finding work challenging and rewarding as they prepare for the final awarding of examination grades by teachers in the summer.

As you will have heard, teachers will be responsible for submitting students' final grades to the examination boards. The Education Secretary has announced that there will be no algorithms this year; instead, teachers will have to use a plethora of information and data available to them to ensure that your child is awarded the grades they deserve. To this end, it is vital that students attend all sessions, be they lessons, assemblies or Edge/Tutor Time, to maximise their performance. As this letter is written, we do plan on giving students in Year 11 a second set of mock examinations just before Easter, but this does depend on whether school is open as normal. Students should work towards preparing for their mock examinations just before Easter as if they are going ahead.

Students now have every opportunity now to show their teachers exactly what they are capable of achieving. They should be in constant communication with their teachers, asking for advice and acting on feedback given. This will ensure that they can achieve the highest possible grades for them as individuals. The sky really is the limit for them; my question to all students in Year 13 is "*How high would you like to achieve?*". The outcome really is up to them and so I would call on you as supportive parents and carers to encourage your child to treat every day like a school day; take a mature and adult approach to their studies; reach out to their teachers and work hard.

Additional help is being provided by a wide variety of providers. You will have heard that the BBC are, from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021, showing curriculum content on TV every day on BBC2 which will support GCSE curricula. Students can also use Seneca Learning and GCSE Pod, which are very useful tools for learning. They should use MathsWatch and the PiXL Maths App; they know their log-in details; students should contact the Year 11 Pastoral Team if they need further assistance. BBC Bitesize, You Tube and news channels are also invaluable.

I must emphasise that students should not see the cancellation of exams as an easy option to achieving grades. Teachers must be able to provide evidence for the grades they award and so if students are looking for higher grades than they were achieving before lockdown, they must study hard and demonstrate to their teachers that they are capable to achieving higher grades on a consistent basis.

We will be monitoring online learning and contacting those students and their parents/carers who do not attend lessons.

Please rest assured that we are doing all we possibly can to provide your child with the best possible life chances even in these unusual times. I know that I can count on you all to ensure that your child plays their part from home.

**Yours faithfully**



**Christopher Czepukojc**  
Headteacher, Senior Academy