



Friday 13th November, 2020.

Dear parents and carers,

I'm sure you will be aware that this week a decision was taken to "cancel" GCSE and A-Level examinations in Wales. This follows on from a similar decision in Scotland and so there has been some talk amongst our Year 11 pupils as to whether or not our own government will make any decisions regarding their exams in the coming days and weeks. We can only plan for the information that we have and as it stands the government have reiterated, on numerous occasions, that it is their intention to continue with exams as planned and we are therefore fully focused on preparing pupils for these.

The Welsh model hasn't necessarily "cancelled" exams as some headlines would have us believe. They are moving to a different style of assessment that will still be set centrally and so it's crucial that pupils understand that even if a decision to deviate from the current plans is taken, it's highly likely that pupils will still need to undertake some form of assessment that they will need to prepare themselves for.

In the meantime, we carry on as planned. Pupils have shown a good attitude to their mock exams this week and we were thrilled with not only the attendance but also the application shown in the Saturday morning tutorial sessions last week. These continue tomorrow and we look forward to working with pupils in the coming weeks.

We were thrilled to learn this week that we have been shortlisted in two categories of the prestigious Educate Awards. Miss Harding has been nominated in the teacher of the year category which is wonderful and well deserved recognition for an excellent practitioner; and our Senior Leadership Team have been nominated for Leadership Team of the year. It's important to stress that we consider the latter nomination as recognition for all the staff at the school who are so committed to our pupils and have undertaken transformational work which resulted in recent successes; including our positive Ofsted judgment and recognition as a 100 top performing and improving school 2020.

Parents will be aware that it was Remembrance day on Wednesday and our pupils observed two minutes of silence to remember those who served in the armed forces and sadly lost their lives. During this one of our Year 11 pupils, Amelia, played The Last Post as is traditional during this period of reflection. I'd like to thank Amelia for her contribution and I know that staff and pupils alike found this a touching moment.

I wish you and your family good health during what is a very difficult time for us all.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin.

Principal.



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