

Thursday 4th March, 2021.



Penketh High School

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I'm sure that our Year 11 pupils return to school on Monday unsure of what their remaining time at school will bring and they might be anxious about how they will be able to secure the grades that reflect their efforts across the last few years. This is completely understandable and we wanted to be able to provide some clarity ahead of their return on Monday, so that they have a clear sense of what we'll be working towards during their last few weeks at school.

As I alluded to in my letter last week Ofqual (the body that oversee the awarding of qualifications including GCSEs and equivalent courses) have released their consultation outcome relating to the awarding of grades for this year. It is clear that this needs to be an evidence based process and pupils will need to provide evidence that they are working at a particular level that would justify the awarding of a particular GCSE grade.

Over the course of the next 10 school weeks pupils will be working closely with staff to achieve 3 things;

- 1) Collating a portfolio of their work that demonstrates their working level
- 2) Preparing for an assessment in May that covers the units they have studied
- 3) Studying as much of the course content as possible so that they are best prepared for the rigours of college and future challenges.

This year teaching staff will be drawing fair and accurate conclusions as to the likely grade pupils would have achieved had they sat their GCSE or equivalent courses. They will be using the evidence available to draw conclusions and award grades to pupils, pupil portfolios in conjunction with their performance in the May assessments will support these judgements.

It is our intention that EPS sessions will commence again from Monday the 22nd of March. The purpose of these sessions will be to provide further opportunities for pupils to complete work that could contribute towards their portfolio of work, therefore providing a greater range of evidence to support teacher judgements.

As we will be conducting lengthier assessments in May mock exams scheduled for March will not be proceeding as planned; we feel this is the correct course of action given that pupils haven't been present in school to prepare as they normally would under the guidance of staff.

We will be conducting a live remote parents information evening prior to the Easter holidays and this will be followed by a remote parents evening providing you with the opportunity to speak to subject teachers. I will forward details of how to register for each event next week.

We know that pupils have worked incredibly hard over the course of the last few weeks during lockdown, we've been impressed with their dedication and commitment. The situation they're returning to is not one we wanted for them, the uncertainty is undoubtedly adding to their anxieties during what is a difficult time already.

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THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST C/O PRIESTLEY COLLEGE, LOUSHERS LN, WARRINGTON WA4 6RD. COMPANY NUMBER 10689247

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Principal: Mr J Carlin BA(Hons) NPQH





Our outstanding young people have our absolute support and our intention is to make sure that the next few weeks remain focused on their progress, preparedness for the next phase of their lives and, crucially, their outcomes.

It's important that pupils come back focused on this final push, prepared to fully engage in learning to secure the best possible outcomes for them to take forward to the next stage of their lives. We are very much looking forward to welcoming them back to school on Monday and to working with them, and you, over the next few weeks to ensure they achieve the grades they deserve.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin.

Principal.



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