



Thursday 19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Year 11 Response to Coronavirus

It is fast becoming a cliché, but these are indeed unprecedented times. The Government's announcements of the last 24 hours are shocking and will have generated a wide range of emotions in our Year 11 students.

Presently, detailed information is not available. However, it is becoming clear that the 2020 Year 11 cohort will not be sitting their exams. Exactly how the students will be assessed has not been addressed, but we must ensure that we apply pressure to the Government so that they honour their pledge to ensure that no students are disadvantaged by this turn of events. Certainly, we will do everything in our power to support every single student to access the next stage of their education.

Given these developments, today will be the final day for Year 11. The school will be closed to Year 11 students tomorrow (Friday 20th March). At 2pm we will gather Year 11 together for a final assembly – they deserve to have the same opportunities as school leavers have had for generations – and we will share this message with them.

Miss Cairns will also be exploring how we can say a proper farewell at a time when the situation has normalised.

If you are a key worker or have a child that the Government has defined as 'vulnerable' then we will support you by offering a place for your child from tomorrow. Please complete the survey that is being sent to all parents and I would appreciate it if you notify me by email (nmcsweeney@emmbrook.wokingham.sch.uk). Our Exams Team is in constant communication with the exam boards and we will update you all as and when more information arises.

Miss Cairns shared a beautiful message with the students during our assembly this morning; that learning and education are always good things – that education is a positive thing in its own right and that they should cherish their learning on that basis. As educators we have to believe that this is true. Our Year 11 students must be celebrated.

I appreciate that this is not how anyone would have wanted the year to end for our students. I have reassured them all today in assembly that we will do everything in our power to support each of them in the coming weeks and months.

Best wishes,

Nick McSweeney
Headteacher