



Dear Parent/Carer,

Let me start by wishing you a (belated) very happy new year. I hope you and your family managed to have a relaxing (and safe!) break over the Christmas period despite the unusual circumstances

I wrote to you before the break informing you about a planned assessment week for year 9 in this half term. The assessment week was designed to help Year 9 students inform their upcoming key stage 4 option choices.

The changing situation with schools has clearly meant that I have had to review our assessment calendar (not just for year 9). I have taken the decision to postpone the assessment week for year 9. I feel at a time when students are not in school and the vast majority of learning is from home, we should focus on the core purposes of school – supporting their online learning and pastoral care to look after well-being.

For the time being, students in year 9 should not worry about any assessments. They should focus on ensuring their day follows their normal daily timetable and they engage with their subject lessons and tutor time.

We fully intend to continue with the options process this half term. Despite the on-going school site closure and the move to online learning, we feel it is feasible to provide information and opportunities for the students and yourself to become fully informed around the process. We are currently designing and scheduling a number of events with the purpose of allowing students to successfully choose their key stage 4 options. These include:

- 1) Tutor time sessions from the careers team focussing on what the options process is and how to make appropriate choices
- 2) Information from all subjects being offered at key stage 4
- 3) Information and resources for all parents and carers on how to support their child with the process
- 4) An online event for all students and parents/carers to outline how the options process works

As these events begin to be rolled out, I will write to you again outlining the details of the options program. In the meantime, please stay safe and should you have any questions around assessment and/or options, please do not hesitate to contact me. Any questions around online learning should either be sent to individual subject teachers, your child's tutor or head of year.

Yours sincerely,

P Whitehouse (Assistant Headteacher)