

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



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Headmistress: Mrs A Bath

6th October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Autumn of Year 11 is always a very busy one for school as we prepare students for GCSE examinations, never more so this year as we all grapple with the challenges of COVID. As I write to you today, we do not have the certainty of the usual timeline of events for your daughter. I therefore felt it was important to share with you what we do know, the things we are putting in place to support your daughter and the communications as a parent you can expect from us over the coming year.

What we do know:

The Government have said that they will confirm plans for GCSEs in the coming weeks. The education minister Gavin Williamson has said that he wants GCSEs to go ahead. There is some talk in the education press that subjects may have modifications to the required content needed for exams. However, until we are instructed by the Government, Ofqual (the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) or examination boards, we will continue to prepare your daughter for exams as normal.

What we've put in place:

Your daughter's teachers are busy preparing her for the summer examination period. They have been carrying out assessments, delivering new syllabus content and reviewing the work done during lockdown. This information will be used by subject leaders to ensure that for each GCSE, we have a programme of study which maximises the time available and provides as much support as your daughter needs to succeed.

Your daughter already has access to a range of high-quality online resources across all subjects. We are working hard to ensure that should there be any further disruption to her school-based learning, that we can seamlessly switch to the highest quality online learning.

Communications in the coming months:

We have had to make some significant adjustments to our usual schedule of Year 11 communication. Unfortunately, this reflects the impact of the lockdown period and uncertainty of the GCSE examinations. I am keenly aware of the frustration which can come from such a vacuum of information. We will share information very soon on your daughter's performance in a revised grade card, and of course, at every stage after that between now and the summer.

continued ...



The revised timeline for Year 11 assessment and parental communication is as follows:

Nov 2020 – GCSE Grade Card – Target, Current and Predicated grade

Feb 2021 – Parents’ evening – Details to follow (Covid restrictions will determine the format)

March 2021 – Diagnostic Assessment Week - for all GCSE subjects

April 2021 – Final GCSE Grade Card - Target, Current and Predicted grade

It is completely understandable that students may speculate as to what will happen if exams don’t go ahead. The Centre Assessed Grade (CAG) used in 2020 is of course an option open to Ofqual. Should this be the case, we will follow all protocols to ensure a fair outcome for your daughter. It’s important to note that any predicted grades on report cards are not CAG grades. We hope by making this clear to parents and students now in October, when grades are produced by subject teachers they will be treated by students as a prediction, should the student continue to work hard and follow all advice that is given.

Should your daughter need to isolate and work from home, she already has access to a range of high-quality online resources across all subjects which all students can access via Sharepoint/Student/Remote Learning. These are organised by year group and subject.

At Sacred Heart we are very proud of the outstanding achievements of the girls who pass through our doors each year. Although 2020 has been a very difficult one for all of us, we are extremely confident that this year’s results will be as good as ever and provide your daughter with the grades she needs to make her next steps. Please do not hesitate to contact school should you need any further information.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Howell', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S Howell
Acting Headteacher