



Monday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of Year 13 students,

This would normally be the time of year where I am in touch to discuss the 'final push' before exams and to discuss end of year arrangements. These circumstances are unprecedented and have been difficult for us all. I have been thinking of Year 13 constantly and hoping that they are all managing to stay both safe and sane in light of our current situation.

You will now be aware that this year's summer exams have been cancelled and so I wanted to be in touch to confirm where we are in the process and what our next steps as a school will be. On Friday, we received additional guidance from the Department for Education regarding how grades will be awarded for A Levels – details of this from Ofqual are available on the school website. We have looked at this guidance in school and agree that this is the fairest possible process which could have been put in place to make sure that our students receive the grades that they deserve. Please, therefore, be rest assured that we will use this guidance to supply the most accurate grades we can for your child, using our knowledge of them and all of the evidence available to us.

To clarify, as many students have been in touch with me to ask, the Ofqual guidance states: *"Your school or college is not required to set additional mock exams or homework for your centre assessment grade, and you won't be disadvantaged if you were not set, or were unable to complete, any work given out after schools were closed."* As a result of this, departments have been asked to mark any work they currently have from their students, but not to set anything further to be used for determining the predicted grades. If your child wishes to submit anything further for the teachers to consider, this must be sent electronically to the relevant teacher through Show My Homework, or emailed (clearly marked for the attention of a named teacher) through the school Enquiries email on the school website by **12 noon on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April**.

For those students taking vocational qualifications (Business, Computing, Health and Social Care and Sport) we are waiting additional information about these courses and you should follow the instructions of your teachers in regards to completion of work.

It is undoubtedly a difficult time for both you and your child in regards to worrying about their next steps but we will do everything we can to support them on to their next stage as planned, whether that is university, an apprenticeship or employment.

For students intending to go to university, we recommend looking at the Open University's free online learning modules (available here: <https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses/full-catalogue>) which will be useful preparation for their upcoming studies and upon completion, students can download a certificate to evidence their learning. This will be a fantastic addition to their CV and future applications, as well as demonstrating dedication to their chosen field. Additionally, all university websites list the course modules students complete as part of their undergraduate degrees and some will publish reading lists and resources which may be useful for preparing for their first year studies. Students should have been provided with all course content and resources from their A Level teachers, which will be helpful when preparing for their degrees.





# SIR WILLIAM ROBERTSON ACADEMY

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For students wanting to begin an apprenticeship or employment, it is likely to be more difficult for businesses in the coming months but those opportunities are still out there and with many people working from home, emails are more likely than ever to be picked up. We would encourage students to be proactive and persistent – get in touch with companies in the fields you are interested in and see what they have on offer. It may be that the start date is slightly later than it would have been, but the opportunities still exist. Vacancies for apprenticeships can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship>

Lastly, it with much regret that we have decided to cancel the Year 13 prom, due to take place on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2020, due to the existing advice regarding gatherings. With the uncertainty about when this advice will change, we feel it is better to cancel and instead look to hold a celebration event when the time is more appropriate. I will be in touch with further information about this as soon as possible.

In spite of this surreal end to your child's time at school, I have to take the time to say how incredibly proud I am of each and every one of them and what they have accomplished, particularly in their Sixth Form years where I have had the privilege to watch them grow into well-rounded, mature young adults. I have no doubt that they will continue to flourish in whatever they go on to achieve and we will be there when results are issued to support them every step of the way.

Yours faithfully,

Miss C. Wilson  
Head of Sixth Form



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