

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

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Headteacher: Mrs A Devany



27 March 2020

Dear Year 11 and families of Year 11,

I hope you and your families are well and you are all keeping safe. Firstly, I would like to thank you for all the kind messages you have sent to numerous staff over the last week to thank them for supporting you over the last five years. The sheer determination, drive and resilience you displayed in the days following the government's decision to cancel the examinations was a testament to the amazing young people you have become over the last five years in our community.

I would also like to thank you for continuing with your studies at home and for those of you who have continued to apply for college and training courses. It is important to continue with your studies whilst you are not in school, however, you must ensure you take a break from your learning over the Easter break.

As you are aware, the government have decided that all GCSE and A level examinations have been cancelled this summer. At both A Level and GCSE, student grades will be awarded by Ofqual which is the examination regulator. They are aiming to have these grades calculated by the end of July.

The information we have from the Department For Education to date:

- Exam boards will be asking teachers, to submit their judgement about the grade that they believe students would have received if exams had gone ahead.
- To produce this, teachers will be asked to take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment.
- Exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use this information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be a best assessment of the work they have put in.
- There will also be an option to sit exams early in the next academic year for any students who wish to – and students can also choose to sit exams next summer-this is the main reason for you to stay on top of your work whilst you are not in school.

For the full report: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>. We will continue to post any updates from the Department for Education to our school website and to our school Twitter account.

Following the announcement, I spoke to Year 11 on Thursday 19th March in assembly to reassure you that we would continue to support you and that the staff will work hard to ensure that the grades they award would be fair and reflect your potential. I completely understand how frustrating and disappointing it is for you not to have had

the opportunity this year to demonstrate in your final exams what you are capable of achieving after all your hard work over the last five years. It is important to recognise that you will have access to the next phase of your education and you will not be disadvantaged because of circumstances that are beyond all of our control. I also assured you that we would still have a leavers' mass and a leavers' prom later in the year to celebrate, as a community, all your hard work over the last five years. We will write to you closer to the time to invite students, to confirm the date and to outline further details and timings.

If you have concerns or anxieties around the cancellation of examinations, we are still here to support you. Please email your Head of Year, Mrs Smith (smithm@msj.bolton.sch.uk) or Mrs Devany (headteacher@msj.bolton.sch.uk).

For now Year 11, ensure you have completed all your college applications via the college and training provider websites. However, you also need to ensure that you look after your own well-being and mental health over the Easter holidays.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for being a fantastic year group; one we won't forget!

I look forward to continuing to work with you all over the coming months to ensure that you leave our community with not only the qualifications you will need but the fond memories you will keep with you forever.

We ask for the Lord's direction at this time and ask him to give us strength. Please take care of yourself and your families,

"We've come a long way from where we began
Oh, I'll tell you all about it when I see you again
When I see you again"

See you soon Year 11

Kind regards

Mrs A Devany

Headteacher