

23rd March 2020

Dear Students and Parents

In this letter, I have again tried to answer some more of the questions you may have.

Yr.9, Yr.10 and Yr.12

While this school closure period will be very disruptive for students and parents it is important that students continue to complete the work set by staff each day following their timetable. This will allow students to structure their day and still work towards examinations that will take place in future years.

Yr.9 GCSE Option Process

The vast majority of Yr.9 students have completed the GCSE Options process and, should schools be back to normal in September, timetables will be in place as quickly as possible. If any student has not had their guidance meeting or has not returned their options form, please do not worry as this can be quickly sorted in September.

Yr.11 and Yr.13 Exam Grades

As you may be aware, exam boards will be asking schools to submit grades that the school believe students would have achieved if the exams had gone ahead. As a school, we will take into account a range of evidence including non-exam assessed work and Trial Exam performance. It is important to highlight to both Yr.11 and Yr.13 students that Trial Exam results provide only a partial picture of student potential in their final exams. These Trial Exam results will be used in conjunction with all the other evidence we have about each individual student to make a prediction.

Please be reassured we have a thorough picture of your progress over the last two years. We have your best interests at heart and your predicted grades will represent a fair picture of your progress. As I said in a previous letter, we have already done a great deal of work on predicted grades prior to this situation as we do every year.

The government has suggested these grades may be released to students by the end of July but that date is subject to change given the uncertainty surrounding this announcement. As we get further clarity on these predicted grades I will update students and parents.

Yr.11 and Yr.13 Lessons

As a consequence of the announcement about predicted grades, staff will not be setting work for Yr.11 and Yr.13 students

Yr.11 and Yr.13 NEA/Coursework

We are still awaiting guidance from exam boards regarding how they will use NEA (None Exam Assessments) and coursework as part of students' predicted grades. As a precaution, any work that students have completed but not submitted, this should be sent to their teacher via email.

Yr.11 Trial Exams

Many students and parents have requested their trial exam results; therefore, we are posting these out today. It is important that students and parents carefully read both what I have said above and also the accompanying letter that will go out with these results. This places these results in context regarding future predictions.

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Yr.11 Future Options

Regarding Yr.11 students who were considering joining Whitley Bay High School Sixth Form - we already have your initial subject intentions, however, we do appreciate students may change their minds. We will therefore hold Yr.11 into Yr.12 Guidance Meeting as soon as we can to ensure students are supported with their Post 16 choices.

For students applying to college courses, apprenticeships etc. please check the websites of your new providers regularly and do not hesitate to contact them if you are in any doubt about what to do next.

Current Yr.8 Students

Given the current situation, we have to change the way we typically conduct the Year 8 admissions process. Therefore, we are asking parents of current Year 8 students, who have been notified by North Tyneside Local Authority that they have a place at Whitley Bay High School from September 2020, to complete this process online.

Please read the letter from me and the Year 8 Options Booklet 2020-2021 on our website carefully before completing the online form.

The online form will take approximately 10 minutes to complete and can only be done in one attempt. Please complete both sections with as much information as possible. Section 1 is the Admission Form, whilst Section 2 is the subject option choice that students can make.

The online form is available on the 'Lower School' section of our website. Please select the 'Year 8 Options' sub menu, which will take you to the correct page. You can then access the direct link to the online admissions form and download the Year 8 Options Booklet and a copy of the letter.

I hope this letter has provided some reassurance in what are unprecedented and concerning times.

I wish you and your family well.

Yours faithfully



Steve Wilson
Headteacher