

Headteacher:
Steve Wilson

Deputy Headteachers:
Linda Buckle
Andrew Sherlaw

info@whitleybayhighschool.org
www.whitleybayhighschool.org

27 March 2020

Dear Parents and Students

I am writing with an update although, I have to say, there is not much new to report since I wrote to you in detail on Monday 23rd March.

Well Done:

I would like to start by congratulating the students on the work they are doing. Teachers are telling me that the response from students to the lessons that they are sending has been excellent. Well done.

I would also like to thank parents for helping students with this work and for all the emails of support, we have received during this time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Whitley Bay High School for the work they are doing. This includes the teachers and Learning Support Staff who are preparing lessons and supporting student work, as well as all other support staff who are working behind the scenes to keep the school functioning.

Yr.9, Yr.10 and Yr.12:

I want to reassure students in Yr.9, Yr.10 and Yr.12, the work they are doing now will allow them to hit the ground running in the future when we return to school. Therefore, keep working hard and try your best to complete the tasks set. If students are struggling with the difficulty of some of the tasks, please do not worry, contact your teacher and we will also address this once we return to school in the future.

GCSE and A Level Predicted Grades:

Regarding GCSE and A Level predicted grades; the following guidance was received earlier in the week from the Department for Education:

'The exam boards will be asking teachers, who know their students well, to submit their judgement about the grade they believe the student would have received if exams had gone ahead.'

To produce this, teachers will take into account a range of evidence and data including performance on mock/Trial exams and non-exam assessments – clear guidance on how to do this fairly and robustly will be provided to schools and colleges. The exam boards will then combine this information with other relevant data, including prior attainment, and use the information to produce a calculated grade for each student, which will be the best assessment of the work they have put in.'

.../

Yesterday, Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations) sent out a further update stating that they expect to publish detailed information about the predicted grade process by next week. This will include the steps schools must follow and detailed guidance on how to consider the full range of evidence to reach a predicted grade.

They also stated that they will outline by Easter the process they will follow to make sure grades are fair across schools and colleges, as well as their proposals for appeals.

Once we receive this information, I will write to parents and students in Yr.11 and Yr.13 about how this new guidance will be applied at Whitley Bay High School.

During Easter:

During the Easter break, I will be asking teachers to set any holiday work they normally would have done, had the term been coming to an end as normal. This means students will not receive lessons each day as they have been but rather a piece of work that would have been set had they been at school. This means not all subjects will set work during this Easter break. I think this is important for a number of reasons, not least of which students need a rest. In addition, it will allow time for students to catch up on any of their lesson work they have not completed while they have been working from home.

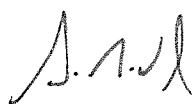
After the Easter break we will continue with lesson work being sent each day.

Further updates:

I will continue to update students and parents on a regular basis and when we receive further information.

Thank you for your continued support and I wish you and your families well.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Wilson'.

Steve Wilson
Headteacher