

21st January 2021

Dear Year Elevens,

I understand that this has been nearly a year of great uncertainty and worry for you and your families. It has been hard for all of us to see the future, and in a time when you should be finding your path into adulthood and branching out, you have been kept away from the world. This unprecedented situation will end eventually, and you will need your qualifications to take you onto the next stage of your journey. I know that you will face this term and next with the resilience, good humour and creativity that you have so often shown throughout your time at Lacon Childe. I am very conscious that we do not fully know what is happening or going to happen and that must make it very hard for you. With that in mind, I thought it would be useful to confirm what we can with regards to exams and give you an idea of what we can hope for.

What we do know:

- You will be awarded a grade in each subject that you were planning to sit this summer. We do not yet know how that will happen - whether there will be mini exams or the teachers will award grades based on your work; but as we know that a grade will be awarded, you MUST keep attending lessons, working and revising as before.
- Mrs Marsden-Smedley will be emailing each family with your individual exam entry list. These must be checked very carefully as the entries need to be made by the middle of February. When you have received and checked these, you will be asked to confirm that they are right. This can be done by emailing claudia.marsdensmed@laconchildeschool.co.uk
- No pupils will be in school until at least half term, so the Year 11 exams planned for before half term will not run.
- If you are back in school after half term, and it is the right option to have exams, then we hope to hold them starting on 15th March running up to the Easter holidays.

I would therefore urge you to consider these three points:

1. Your hard work will be recognised. None of the effort you have shown so far, and will continue to show in the coming months, will be wasted.
2. Your eventual results will be indistinguishable from real exam grades. In the long term, it will not matter that your grade came via any revised system. You will still be able to progress to your preferred option in the normal way.
3. Every piece of work you complete, every skill you learn, every interaction with your teachers, will still make a difference to your personal development, your transferrable skills, and to your well-being.

If you have any worries or concerns, then please ask your form tutor, Mrs Guise, or me for help as we are all still here to support you.

I look forward to the time when we can all be together again. Take care of yourself and each other.

Ms Polly Shepherd
Year 11 Leader and Teacher of English