Our Ref: LTM/kmd/y11support

11 February 2021



Dear Parent/Guardian

Re: Ongoing Support for Year 11 Students

As we come to the end of the final week of this half term, I write to provide an update in relation to the ongoing support for your child as we continue our journey ahead. This letter will hopefully respond to a number of questions we have received; giving all students and their parents some further reassurance regarding future planning.

<u>Possible Return Date for Students:</u> All schools have been told that they will receive two weeks' notice on when students will be able to return to school. Monday, 8th March has been identified as the earliest date, with this likely to be for key year examination year groups only. The Government are due to release further information on what this could look like during the week beginning Monday, 22nd February; we will provide further updates following this time.

Feedback on Year 11 Full Written Reports: Thank you for the positive feedback regarding written reports. The opportunity to take a snapshot of where your child was at through the mock examinations, alongside the progress monitoring within their lessons has added real value and a focus for everyone. Students should continue to complete all work set, in the knowledge that their current work will be used to support them moving forward and provides an opportunity for staff to monitor continued progress. We know that working at home feels very different but everyone is doing an amazing job and responding brilliantly to the work being set.

Where Are We With Information Regarding Final Assessments?: Staff in school continue to deliver full schemes of work as we await further instruction from the Department of Education on how assessments will be finalised. Consultation ended on Friday, 29th January and we await the outcome of this; for now, the message remains the same, 'everything counts'.

<u>Further Parental Contact</u>: Once we have further guidance regarding how courses will progress, our intention is to provide face-to-face contact for all parents with their child's class teachers. This is likely to be via online meetings which we are currently planning for. Our hope had been that this would be prior to half term, however this will now follow in the weeks ahead once confirmation has been given from exam boards on the way ahead. This will allow all questions to be responded to at that time. We do hope that by receiving your child's written report and having the opportunity to e-mail their teachers with any specific questions will have helped bridge this period of time.

<u>Supporting Progression into Post 16 Provision:</u> We are aware that many students have already made some initial decisions regarding their next steps into Post 16 provision. We would encourage your child to contact Ms Barlow (<u>sarah.barlow@oldburywells.com</u>) should they have any specific questions at this stage. A reminder that there is a wealth of resources available on the school website (http://www.oldburywells.com/student-information/careers-enterprise)

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<u>Contact in School</u>: Mr Cowburn, Ms Barlow and other key staff have been making contact regularly with some students and form tutors will be touching base through the morning sessions. Please contact the school if there is anything you need to discuss.

<u>A Final Message:</u> We are extremely proud of the efforts and achievements of all our students. Everyone's journey and experience will differ slightly based on their personal circumstances, although the commitment that everyone is showing is a credit to all concerned. Please pass on our thanks and message of support to your child and remember to make contact if there is any additional support you may require.

Finally, please make sure that over the half term period your child takes a well-earned break from their studies. We understand that they may wish to continue focusing on key areas, but also recognise the need to recuperate after a very different start to the calendar year.

Take care and stay safe!

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Yours faithfully

Mr Lee Tristham

Headteacher

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c/o: Oldbury Wells School