



29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your family are managing to stay well during these difficult times?

We are delighted that so many students are fully engaging with their remote learning and are progressing well with their studies. However, as the term progresses and the latest Government announcement suggests that the earliest students will return to school will be 8<sup>th</sup> March, I felt it necessary to write to you to get your continued support as a parent/carer in encouraging your child to access, complete and submit their work, as well as monitoring what they have done. I also wanted to take the opportunity to explain why it is so important that students complete all of the work to the best of their ability. The remote work is set by class teachers via Google Classrooms, and is also uploaded onto ClassCharts so parents can have full access to the work which needs to be completed.

It is vital for your child's final GCSE or Vocational grade that they complete all the remote work that is set for them to the best of their ability. Whilst there is an ongoing Government consultation about how grades will be awarded for students in the summer following the cancellation of the majority of exams, it has already been confirmed that students will be awarded Centre Assessed Grades. These will be determined by teachers at King James and will be required by exam boards to be based on the evidence we have of a student working at a particular grade. Without evidence, we cannot justify giving a particular grade. Therefore, the work that is submitted by students during this lockdown, along with previous classwork, mock exam performance and a range of other evidence will contribute to the final grade awarded this summer; by not completing work now, students are significantly reducing their chances of achieving a good grade. This will clearly have a significant impact on student futures moving forward. I am aware that some students think that they will catch up when they return to school, however I need to stress upon you that we don't know definitely when that return to school will be, and additionally, there will not be time to catch up, as there is still an expectation that teachers will deliver as much of the course as possible before students leave.

Ultimately our aim as a school is to secure the best academic results, and as a result the best future possible for all our students. I know that we share this ambition with you as a parent who wants the best for your child. Therefore, it is crucial that we work together over the next few weeks and months to ensure that students complete and submit their work, and by doing so ensure that they are achieving the best possible grades in the GCSE exams.

Please take the time to monitor and check on the work your child is completing. Students will have access to live lessons and various other media each day to

Acting Headteacher: **Mr S Whitehead**

Academy Trust registered company name trading as: **King James I Academy, Bishop Auckland**

Registered Office Address: **South Church Road, Bishop Auckland. County Durham DL14 7JZ**

Tel: **01388 603388** Email: **kingjames@kj1a.com**

A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company registration number: 7638979

Charity Registration Number: 527392



Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values



National College



arts colleges



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Specialist Schools and Academies Trust



support their progress, and we have listened to feedback from parents and students to ensure individual needs can be met. ClassCharts will show you whether they have submitted the work needed. I cannot stress how important the next half term is for students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding, and by doing this they will achieve the grade that they deserve. Should your child be struggling to access and submit work, we will continue to be in touch with you to offer support and advice. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. Below are the names of key contacts to support Year 11:

Mrs M Stead                      Assistant Headteacher – Key Stage 4  
Miss J Short                      Head of Year 11  
Miss M Hutchfield              Year 11 Support

Yours faithfully

Mr S Whitehead  
Acting Headteacher



Living the Olympic and Paralympic Values



Acting Headteacher: **Mr S Whitehead**  
Academy Trust registered company name trading as: **King James I Academy, Bishop Auckland**  
Registered Office Address: **South Church Road, Bishop Auckland. County Durham DL14 7JZ**  
Tel: **01388 603388** Email: **kingjames@kj1a.com**  
A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales under company registration number: 7638979  
Charity Registration Number: 527392