



6th January 2021

Our Ref: MSD/KS

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you following the recent announcement from the Government on Monday 4th January regarding the cancellation of the summer exams for all year 11 students. I appreciate that this is a very unsettling time for both yourself and your child, and understand the hard work and effort that they have made since returning to us in September.

Can I ask that you continue to support your child in accessing work set every day by their subject teachers? The work they have completed so far through assessments and mock exams has enabled them to show the progress and potential they have, and will help as they continue to work towards their final grades this summer.

We received further information yesterday from the Education Secretary, detailing the way your child will be assessed for their GCSE qualifications this summer. All Year 11 students will be assessed through Teacher Assessments based on work produced by students throughout the year. Further details about how these teacher assessments will be formed, to ensure that grades are fair and consistent for all students, will follow later in the Spring term. Can I therefore stress again, the importance of the work that your child is now completing and needs to continue to complete whilst these lock down measures are in place. There are staff on hand each day to reply to concerns via email, live lessons and feedback on work submitted. Work will be set in line with your child's current timetable, and students should log on each morning to register. Students need to ensure that work is submitted each day on Google Classrooms, and to keep parents informed, all work will be recorded on ClassCharts.

Unfortunately, after a very late announcement from the Government on Tuesday, we have taken the decision to cancel BTEC and Vocational exams this January and February for all Year 11 students. This is again a result of the current situation we all find ourselves in and our priority of maintaining student safety. Students will not be penalised for these cancellations and plans for an alternative date/assessment system are being made. Pearsons have issued a statement reiterating '*that no learner is disadvantaged*' through this decision. As yet, no official information has been released on how vocational exams will be assessed for Year 11 students.

We will be issuing in the next few days a full report for the mock examinations taken in December. you will be contacted by your child's tutor, Head of Year or Key Stage Coordinator to allow you to discuss your child's current progress, and what next steps they need to take to ensure they achieve their goals in the

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**

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summer. You will be able to look at the support available for your child whilst remote learning, and also when they return to us, hopefully after February half term.

We will continue to run our careers interviews via phone calls with Ann Goddard our Careers Adviser, so that students have a clear understanding of the pathways and progression to Sixth Form, apprenticeships, employment and other recruitment opportunities.

Thank you for your continued support. Should you wish to discuss any of the issues above, or your child's progress, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Stead

Mrs M Stead
KS4 Coordinator



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