

Thursday, 19th March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid-19 (Coronavirus)- Year 11

As you are aware this is an unprecedented time and we are conscious that you, and your child, will be anxious and concerned about what the future holds. I would like to take this opportunity to try answer some of your inevitable questions.

As of Wednesday, 18th March 2020, the UK Government have taken the decision to not proceed with all formal examinations this academic year. This will mean that your child will no longer be required to sit their GCSE examinations in May and June. There have been no direct instructions issued on how we will ensure that children get the qualifications they deserve. We have been informed that this decision will take place in the coming days.

The Education Secretary has indicated that all learners will be awarded a fair grade that recognises their work and effort, which will draw on the range of information that is available to us. We have recently sat mock examinations and several subjects rely solely or predominately on controlled assessment. We know that many students have significantly improved their attitude to learning and efforts since the mock exams and so we also have numerous informal assessments, classwork and homework to use, along with your child's ready to learn grades to guide any teacher assessment that may be required. I can assure you that we will do this with your child's best interests at heart.

Over the next few days and weeks, we will be in regular contact with the colleges regarding admissions for September and as soon as possible will pass on any information provided. Colleges will need to wait for the Government guidance before confirming any official plans, however, we will assist colleges in sharing information to help guide their decisions.

Unfortunately, we have also had to cancel the Year 11 prom. There is still every intention to bring the students together, once we have returned to a degree of normality. We highly value the importance of the event in the celebration of the journey your child has had at Poltair School and would be delighted to celebrate with them when the time is right.

We have already been asked about refunds on revision guides. I hope that you can appreciate that during this very challenging time, our priority is ensuring that students have access to learning and safe working environments. When appropriate, we will consider the options with regards to revision guides and update you in due course.

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Finally, this is an important time to remind your child that learning lasts forever; do not let them lose sight that the learning over the last five years at Poltair School is what mattered and not the end examination. The knowledge they have acquired, and work undertaken will not go unrewarded. They do not need to take their examinations, but they will need to prove that they are ready for the next stage of their journey, whatever that maybe. In which case, we will still expect the students to engage with the work provided, to keep up with their studies and to maintain frequent and regular contact with their class teachers. The evidence of this will most certainly support teacher assessments on whether progress would have been made from their mock examinations.

If you have any further questions that you feel we can support with, then please do not hesitate to contact us using the details below

Assistant Headteacher (Raising Standards Leader): Mrs Kellow jkellow@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk

Year Team Leader (Year 11): Miss Waters vwaters@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Claire White', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Claire White
Deputy Headteacher