



30th March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardian,

I know that the last few weeks have been incredibly challenging for all, but especially for students preparing for examinations in Year 11. It was not just the uncertainty about how the grades will work, but also sadness about the lost memories, for example proms, leaver's assemblies and in some cases simply time to say goodbye to each other properly. In the very short time we had before the Academy closed we managed to sign shirts, have a few leaving speeches and eat a donut together! Please thank your child for me for the way in which they handled the news last week, they were incredibly resilient and mature in how they approached the situation.

I wanted to write to bring some clarity and reassurance to some of the things you and your child may be discussing at this time.

Students learning from home

In order to ensure that we have all the necessary evidence available, should it be required, we ask for your support in ensuring that Year 11 students continue to engage in the home learning work that is being set through TEAMS. Some subjects include non-examined assessments (coursework) which are yet to be completed. Students should liaise directly with their subject teacher regarding this and any opportunities for completing them remotely.

Whatever the next steps your child was planning to take this autumn, completing their education with us will stand them in good stead for their future pathways and ensure that they are not starting off behind their counterparts from other schools or colleges. Learning is always positive, and this is particularly the case in the subjects that they wish to continue studying next year.

Careers advice

Any student who is not looking to continue into the Brooke Weston Academy Sixth Form and is unsure about their next steps can contact our careers advisor, Mrs Scott, through TEAMS. She will be able to offer guidance on other routes post 16.

What we know about GCSE grades

We still await further information from the government concerning exactly how GCSE grades will be awarded. The latest government announcement can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020> A shorter update of what we know so far is provided below.

The government and exam boards have instructed that they will require a range of data from schools to feed into their processes for deciding the GCSE grades. They have not yet given precise details on the specifics of the data they require. Please rest assured we will continue to work very hard in the best interests of every one of our students and do all we can to make sure they get the best possible outcomes from the process as it is clarified. Our teaching staff are best placed to know their students and we will have access to a wide range of data and evidence as soon as further guidelines are given.

What we know about appeals and opportunities to sit exams

The government also announced that if students do not feel their calculated grade reflects their performance, they will have the opportunity to sit an exam, as soon as reasonably possible after schools open again. It is therefore very important that the work set by your child's teachers is completed to the best of their ability. Your child will most likely be going onto further study, whether this be at Post 16, Higher Education or apprenticeships and so the knowledge and skills developed in the coming months will be important.



We are expecting to learn more about the process of awarding grades in the next week, and I will update you as we know more. We currently expect results will be issued in July, but whatever the confirmed date, we will provide all our usual high-quality student care, academic and careers support at the time.

Entry to Brooke Weston Academy Sixth Form

We will also be working hard to ensure that your child gets their place at Sixth Form or at college as planned. All applications to our Sixth Form, will be processed in the same way as previously, but due to the closure of our school, any interviews and induction events arranged for before the summer will no longer take place. We will communicate the new timeline with you, as soon as it is confirmed. Conditional offers to students based on GCSE grades will still hold and decisions on subject choices will be finalised once students have received their GCSE grades.

Safeguarding Information

Safeguarding is at the heart of everything we do at Brooke Weston Academy. However, during such uncertain times and due to school closures, it is important that we ensure parents/carers know who to contact if they are concerned about the welfare or safety of a child.

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs). You can find their contact details on our school website www.brookeweston.org

If you are concerned about the safety or welfare of a child out of school hours, please contact the MASH team on 0300 126 1000 (option 1). Alternatively, you can e-mail them on MASH@northamptonshire.gcsx.gov.uk

If you think a child is in immediate danger or missing, you should contact the police and/or an ambulance directly by phoning **999**.

Finance questions

With regards to finances, if you had already paid for an educational trip that is now cancelled, or have credit on your Brooke Weston card, please contact finance@brookeweston.org for a refund.

IT or curriculum questions while working from home

If you have any questions regarding the curriculum, subjects or work, please contact your teacher in the first instance via email or Teams. However, they may be unavailable, so in this instance please contact: CurriculumSupport@brookeweston.org

Note: Curriculum support will be unable to answer subject specific questions.

If you have issues with Teams or Office 365 please contact: ITStudentSupport@brookeweston.org

Note: IT support cannot resolve issues with hardware or Internet at home.

Finally, at this time of national crisis, we are asked to trust the science and to follow the advice of the government. We need to give our support to front line services, particularly the NHS. I want to thank all staff who are operating the school for key worker children to allow them to continue to do their jobs.

I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout this year and hope your families stay safe and healthy throughout this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

Pete Kirkbride
Principal