

**Headmaster: Mr Alan Whelpdale BA, PGCE, NPQH**

23 March 2020

Dear Parents

## **Re: Year 11 and GCSE Grades**

First of all, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you that your daughters have behaved impeccably throughout the last few difficult days. These are uncertain and unclear times, especially regarding GCSE and A Level examinations.

All schools are awaiting information and instructions from the Department of Education. At the moment, there is little new information I can share with you; it remains that the Government has decided that there will be no Summer Term public examinations.

We have been told by the Prime Minister that all Year 11 students will be given their GCSE grades by the end of July 2020. Discussion is emerging which suggests that GCSE grades will be based on subject teacher recommendations and predictions, and all such teacher expectations will have to be evidence led.

Please allow me to assure both students and parents that our teachers know your daughters very well indeed. The Mock examination result is but one piece of evidence and we know this grade will largely be out-of-date. All my staff understand that our students almost always exceed the results they achieved in January. I am proud to say that the teachers at LHS will be meticulously fair and act with integrity when making predictions, if, indeed, this is what the Government ask of them.

In light of the most recent announcements, I have now advised the staff to cease setting online work for Year 11 students. Their time can be used more productively in collating evidence to underpin the predictions that they will most probably be asked to provide. I also believe the girls will benefit from a well-deserved rest.

After the scheduled Easter holidays, staff will begin setting work for Year 11 students based on A Level specifications. This is intended to give the girls a very realistic and constructive foundation for their future A Level studies. All subjects offered in our Sixth Form will be covered by the staff. I expect the girls to take advantage of this service – it will give them a real advantage when they begin their actual A Level programme of study in September, whether they intend to stay on into our Sixth Form or not.

After the scheduled Easter holidays, staff may ask their students to complete a particular assessment if they require more evidence.

Please may I remind parents, that under very difficult and ever-changing circumstances, my staff continue to work hard for our students. As we move forward the remote learning will evolve, and the nature of the work will change also.



The LHS community is a family. It is vital that School and home work together to ensure our students get the very best GCSE grades, which reflect their commitment and continued hard work throughout the two-year course. I will be supporting my staff in their deliberations and evidence gathering over the next few weeks.

If any student, or parents, would like to talk to Mrs Rose, Head of Key Stage Four, please email her and she will reply in a timely manner.

As we receive more information, I will, of course, keep you fully informed.

With every good wish,



**Alan Whelpdale**  
**Headmaster**

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