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5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 Mock Exams and Summer GCSEs

Following the government announcement on Monday evening that a new National lockdown will come into force at 00:01 on Wednesday 6 January. Understandably you will be extremely concerned about the impact of this and especially what it will mean for your child's GCSE exams this summer.

As you are aware all schools within Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust will only be open for vulnerable children and families where a parent is a key worker. Once again we will continue the learning for all our students remotely through the TEAMS online platform. Students are expected to follow their own timetable and teachers will be online to teach at the scheduled lesson time.


At the start of each lesson the teacher will address students with a 'good morning' or 'good afternoon' at this point please ask your child to click on the 'like' icon on their screen as this indicates their attendance in the lesson. This is crucial as non-attendance will be followed up in the usual manner. If you experience any difficulties with the TEAMS online platform advice can be found on our website or alternatively please contact the Academy for help. Your support in encouraging students to continue to engage with their regular timetabled sessions via this online platform would be hugely appreciated.

The government have said that in these circumstances, they do not think it is possible for exams to go ahead fairly this summer. The Secretary of State for Education will be asking Ofqual to consult rapidly on an approach for alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly. As soon as we receive further information from Ofqual we will contact you with the details.

At this point I believe that exams will not go ahead as expected and Ofqual will look at an alternative which may include centre assessed grades, this is why it is so important we continue with our scheduled Year 11 mock exams. The mock exams are essential for teachers to provide a teacher assessed grade for your child. Mock exams will be sent through TEAMS and will start the week beginning 11 January 2021. We would ask parents to try to, as much as possible, keep within exam conditions. As this is exceptional circumstances we are prepared to post mock exam papers home for students, however, you must send them back to school as they will require marking. Further information regarding the mock exams will follow shortly.

Thank you as always for your partnership and commitment, take care, be safe and stay strong.

With all good wishes,


Mrs H Keough
Acting Headteacher

