

Wendy Walters BA (Hons) MA

Academy Principal

Chatham Grammar Rainham Road Chatham Kent ME5 7EH

T: 01634 851262

E: Of fice CG@university of kentaca demiestrust.org.uk

W: www.chathamgrammar.org.uk

A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Friday 8th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 11 Update

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Again, we find ourselves in a period of remote learning and uncertainty surrounding the awarding of GCSE grades. Following the announcement this week of another national lockdown I wanted to keep you updated with how we are supporting you and your child at this difficult time.

You will have heard the news that exams this year will not go ahead in their current format and teacher assessment will be used. This announcement will have created huge uncertainty for students, and I am afraid that at the current time we have no further information on this. We are expecting more detail concerning this over the next few weeks and we will ensure that we communicate this with you as soon as we are able to. We were planning to hold a parents evening in the coming weeks but due to the changing situation we will be postponing this until we know more about the process for awarding grades.

Teachers have been really impressed with the resilience shown by Year 11, who despite the disruption, have engaged with their lessons and shown exemplary attitudes towards their studies — actively engaging with their teachers despite the circumstances. It is crucial that at this time students keep focused and continue working in all online lessons. It is so important that students fully engage in these lessons and in the work set as we need to ensure that their learning continues. Teachers are monitoring student engagement in lessons and we will be in touch with you we have any concerns. Please contact us if your child is having difficulty accessing the lessons and resources provided, we will help where we can.

At this time, the Mock exams that were planned for this term will not be going ahead as students will not be in school. If they are rescheduled, we will let your child know as soon as we have made this decision. This decision will be based on when the lockdown is eased, and students return to school. It will also depend upon the guidance schools are given relating to awarding this summer's grades on 'teacher assessments'.

Pastoral support continues for your child whilst they are working from home. This support takes many forms, including via their personal tutor, myself and our pastoral manager Ms Franqueira. If you or your child have any concerns or worries please encourage your child to contact their personal tutor (via Edmodo or their email) who







will know who to direct them to for the most appropriate support. Careers advice will also continue, with students receiving their appointment for a 'virtual' meeting with our careers advisor.

If your child is experiencing any IT difficulties they should email: ibar@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk for technological support.

As always please contact me shillitoe@universityofkentacademiestrust.org.uk if I can be of any assistance I look forward to welcoming year 11 back when the time comes.

Best wishes,

Samantha Shillitoe Assistant Principal

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