

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you and your loved ones are well and staying safe.

Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your continuous support during these uncertain times and be rest assured that as a school, we are working hard to try and meet the needs of all our students through compassion and care.

'Learning to Learn from Home' remotely is certainly a very new experience for many of us and for our students to experience. We are aware that many students will face difficult challenges in the current climate and would like to reassure you that we are doing our upmost in planning for their future to ensure our students are not disadvantaged with their next steps within the world of education or work. We are sharing relevant articles and reports with students on email which we hope they find useful.

During these uncertain times we want to ensure you that we are providing every opportunity for students to continue their learning and provide support and guidance where we can. For Year 13, we want to ensure that we are providing opportunities for their learning to continue, but also prepare them for Post 19 options.

As you are already aware , on 18 March 2020, the Secretary of State for Education announced that the summer 2020 GCSE, AS and A level exam series would be cancelled and that students due to sit the exams would be awarded a grade based on an assessment of the grade they would have been most likely to achieve had exams gone ahead. On 23 March, in a written statement to Parliament, the Secretary of State explained the government's intention that results would be issued to this year's cohort based on a range of evidence and data, including performance on mock exams and non-exam assessment. It was announced **A-level students will still receive their exam results as planned this summer on Thursday 13 August 2020**. If any students feel that their grades do not reflect their ability, they will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series of 2020 or in the summer 2021. The government guidelines relating to this are detailed in the letter to parents:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/880613/Letter_to_students_-_Summer_2020_grading.pdf

Exams Results Day - 13 August 2020

We will still be going ahead with an exam results day in August and more details will follow in the coming weeks. The arrangements for that day will look a little different than what we have done in the past, however we want to assure families that our information, advice and guidance in supporting your son/daughter in their future pathways will remain our top priority.

In the meantime, it is important that students continue to complete wider reading around their chosen future university subject or career. This can be done by visiting University websites to obtain ideas of wider reading lists for their chosen subjects, or by visiting Employer websites to gain knowledge of the company and their trade. This will provide them with skills which will aid them in their next steps.

Rest assured we are here to support and guide our students with their next steps, which will be one of the biggest decisions they will make to build their future:

Careers

As far as we are aware, all of Year 13 students had a plan/application for post Westgate. Mrs Green is very keen to make sure that if your son/daughter has changed their mind or had not completed any applications at the time of lockdown, that parents and students can contact her for a one to one conversation. In addition, our Adviza consultant is also on hand for more in-depth consultation should this be required. Students are regularly being emailed information including contact emails, corporate offers of virtual work experience, webinars, articles and advice.

Please contact Mrs Green – klg@westgate.slough.sch.uk should you require further help and guidance.

Unifrog has been an excellent tool to help students learn more about career pathways including Labour Market Information, University courses, Apprenticeships vacancies, and a wide range of opportunities available for post A Level. Please encourage students to re-visit Unifrog so that they can:

- Complete **free online courses** found in the 'MOOC' section - a wide range of courses are available based on interests and age. They are University accredited and will be a positive boost to CV's
- Create a personality and interests' profile and research careers based on results
- Learn more about 'core competencies' employers are looking for and record how they have met each competency.
- Use the CV tool available, to review and update their CV.

Routines

We have put together a **suggestion of a timetable** that may support your son/daughter with organising their day. We are hoping that this timetable will give some routine, a sense of normality and a feeling of still being connected as a community. The rest of their day is for family, for physical activity, for mindfulness activities or acts of kindness.

As a school we are continuously looking into 'Learning to Learn from Home' and how we can support our families. We are currently developing a new area on our website dedicated to 'Learning to Learn from Home' which we will continuously update on a regular basis, the following resources are available for your households and son/daughter to use:

- An example of a Year 13 'Learning to Learn from Home' student timetable
- A blank editable Year 13 'Learning to Learn from Home' student timetable
- Online Learning Platforms*
- #Coping young person's guide
- #Coping 5 ways to wellbeing
- Top Tips for dealing with anxiety
- 60 Day Wellbeing Challenge for families
- Top Tips for positive wellbeing
- Stay Active, Relax & Distract Wellbeing Pack

**Currently under construction on our website*

Please ensure steps are taken to safeguard your child learning safely online, the following link has some advice:

<https://www.westgate.slough.sch.uk/page/?title=Learning+Safely+Online&pid=443>

We know our Year 13s are trying their very best to navigate through a new way of communication, home learning as well as thinking about their future. We would like to reassure you #TeamWestgate are here to support and if your son/daughter is experiencing difficulties, we would like for them to communicate this with in the first instance their tutor and then the Head of Sixth form if further support is required.

No doubt our students will have many unanswered questions, please can you encourage them to have a look at the student guide which has been made available:

<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/for-students/student-guide-to-coronavirus/questions-and-answers/>

We are all on a learning curve with remote learning, please remember, you are all doing an extraordinary job in extraordinary times. We need to keep working together to make the best of a difficult situation.

As a school, we want to that 'ensure we provide you with support where possible; if your son/daughter needs any guidance including their Post 19 options please do not hesitate to contact us. We have enjoyed sharing our Year 13s journey with them at The Westgate School and are keen to plan a celebration of their successes, we will be in contact soon with further details.

We appreciate your continued support, miss our students and send you our very best wishes, keep strong, stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Sandhu
Assistant Headteacher