

Dear parents,

I hope you are all well.

### **Examinations**

I wrote to you last week to explain that GCSE and A level summer examinations have been cancelled. Over the last week or so there has been a lot of speculation about exactly what is happening. A consultation is due to open today; this should last for 2 weeks and so hopefully after that we will know more. I will of course keep you updated. This week it has also been announced that all BTEC examinations due to take place in February have been cancelled. At the moment we do not know any more than that other than "arrangements will be put in place." Students on all courses still need to continue to cover the full content of specifications so they just need to work as usual and as soon as we know more we will let you all know.

### **Remote learning**

Just a reminder, that live Teams lessons are due to start for Key Stage 3 from next week. Please see the schedule below:

<b>Week beginning</b>	<b>Years 7, 8 and 9</b>	<b>Years 10,11, 12 and 13</b>
18 January	Live lessons on Teams for maths, English and science Work on Frog for all other subjects	
25 January	Work on Frog for maths, English and science Live lessons on Teams for all other subjects	
1 February	Live lessons on Teams for maths, English and science Work on Frog for all other subjects	
8 February	Work on Frog for maths, English and science Live lessons on Teams for all other subjects	
15 February	Half Term	

As stated in a previous letter, we expect all students to be engaging with live lessons and/or remote learning. If your child is struggling to access the work due to a lack of technology/internet/data at home then can you please get in touch with their Head of Year and we may be able to help:

Year 7: [s.barrett@macademy.org.uk](mailto:s.barrett@macademy.org.uk)

- Year 8: [l.jones@macademy.org.uk](mailto:l.jones@macademy.org.uk)
- Year 9: [c.ball@macademy.org.uk](mailto:c.ball@macademy.org.uk)
- Year 10: [h.richardson@macademy.org.uk](mailto:h.richardson@macademy.org.uk)
- Year 11: [s.baker@macademy.org.uk](mailto:s.baker@macademy.org.uk)

## **Parental emails**

At the academy we have always been exceptionally lucky to have supportive parents and we are always keen to hear your views. That said, at the moment some of our teachers are receiving a huge volume of emails from parents. Can I please ask that you are realistic with your demands of staff at the academy. Many of our teachers teach 22 hours per week and some of our teachers teach over 400 students; they may not always see emails until the end of the day and they will not always be able to respond to all emails within the same day. Of course if you have a concern or an issue that you need to let us know about then please continue to do so and we will do our very best to respond to you as soon as we physically can. Please continue to work with your child's tutor and Head of Year. If you have something that is urgent then please ring the academy and somebody will be able to call you back if we cannot immediately take the call. Thank you for your support with this.

## **PSHE/assembly and PE**

From next week we are launching the weekly assembly and PSHE (personal, social and health education) programme. This is available via Frog. You can click here to find out more: <https://tinyurl.com/yxoksw3p>. Each week there will be an assembly a PSHE activity and a PE activity; students can use their core PE lesson time to engage with this.

## **The super curriculum**

This week we have launched the 'super curriculum' with Key Stage 3 students. This can be found on Frog. Participation is on a voluntary basis. There is one task per subject and tasks are designed to go beyond the curriculum and be extra challenging, rather than just extra work. This is in the hope of igniting curiosity, inspiring a love of learning, and developing knowledge beyond what students learn in the classroom (or at home!). Students select the tasks they would like to complete based on their subject interests and can achieve gold awards for each task that is submitted that meets the success criteria.

## **Testing**

I sent a letter earlier this week asking if you wanted to give your consent for your child to be part of testing for coronavirus in schools. If you have not submitted your form but you would like to give your consent can you please do this as soon as possible.

As ever, thank you for your continued support in these difficult times. We are missing all of our students very much; Teams lessons are great but it's just not the same!

Take care,  
Mrs R Coning  
(Head of School)