



Mary Webb School & Science College, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury, Shropshire SY5 0TG

Headteacher: Mr P J Lowe-Werrell

TEL: 01743 792100

FAX: 01743 792110

Email: [admin@marywebbschool.com](mailto:admin@marywebbschool.com)

Website: [www.marywebbschool.com](http://www.marywebbschool.com)

17<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Year 11 Student Parents and Carers,

We hope you and your families continue to stay safe and well.

These have been, and continue to be, unprecedented times for all students. For your child and all our Year 11 students in particular, they will miss some memorable milestones this term; they were due to take exams and then bid farewell to their classmates, both in school and at our end of year Prom. Whilst we understand there have been many challenges, we would encourage your child to look forward to when society and their lives return to something more familiar, and to preparing for their future beyond Mary Webb School and Science College.

Regarding the future, your child will already have received notification that our careers adviser Sharon Ruff is available to have conversations with them - indeed many have already benefitted from her expertise regarding next steps. Sharon and Mr Jervis are in regular conversations with the local colleges and should your child require support or indeed a reference we will be happy to help. We have also attached a document to this letter, from the local authority, which provides additional 'next steps' support - we hope your child finds it useful.

Your child's next future milestone will be their exam results. On 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020, the Secretary of State for Education announced that the summer 2020 exam series would be cancelled in order to help fight the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) 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<sup>rd</sup> 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 non-exam assessment; the results of any homework assignments or mock exams; and any other records of student performance over the course of study. Guidance has been provided to support a common approach to assessing students. Ofqual and the exam boards will do everything they can to make sure grades awarded this year are as fair as possible for students by putting all centre assessment grades through a process of external standardisation. This means that the centre assessed grades submitted by schools and colleges and the final grade that students receive could be different. As a result of this, we have been instructed not to share our centre assessed grades with students. Ofqual are proposing that any student, who feels that their final grades in the summer do not reflect their ability, will have the opportunity to take their exams in the autumn series or in summer 2021. When we have more details on this, we will forward them to you and your child.

When we receive the GCSE results we hope that we can host a results day as we would normally, on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2020. However, as social distancing might still be required, our contingency plan is to post them to your child. It is therefore essential, you inform us if

your address has changed since the beginning of March 2020. Alternatively, your child may need their results to be sent to a different address - in either of eventualities, it is crucial you inform us by emailing [admin@marywebbschool.com](mailto:admin@marywebbschool.com), as soon as possible. We will be in contact with you again in early August to confirm our plans for results day, but for now please be prepared for either eventuality, the most likely being the results being sent in the post.

Finally, we are sure there were very few people would have predicted the lockdown, the length of school closures that we are still experiencing and the continuing restrictions imposed upon us all. All of this has impacted on us being able to mark your child's final term in the usual way. However, we remain keen to support any endeavours to do this, even though it will clearly be different to previous years. Cerys Buxton and Gareth Edwards, with support from parents, have offered to organise a rescheduled Prom in the autumn term. Whether this takes place or not depends almost entirely on government guidance/advice/instruction around social distancing. Further details will be sent to you and your child when we have them.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please make contact through email on [admin@marywebbschool.com](mailto:admin@marywebbschool.com)

Thank you for all your support in recent weeks and over the years. We hope you and your families continue to stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely

*P J Lowe-Werrell*

Mr P J Lowe-Werrell  
Headteacher

*J Hall*

Miss J Hall  
Deputy Headteacher

*M Jervis*

Mr M Jervis  
Assistant Headteacher

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