

# Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College

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Dear Year 11 and Year 13 Parents and Carers

Following on from last night's announcement regarding the latest school lockdown in England, I have already received a number of comments from parents and students now that the exams in their current form have been cancelled. Emotions are running high; students are feeling anxious, irritated and frustrated with uncertainty about the final six months of secondary education. This comes on top of the previous upheaval through the first year of A Level and GCSE courses.

We expect to hear soon what the exams will be replaced with, however the guidance we received yesterday talks of a period of consultation. Whilst the Government may soon announce the trajectory for assessment and issuing grades, I suspect we will have to wait some time for the detail. The situation this year already differs from last year; it is much earlier in the course and students have already had significant disruption.

It is imperative that students continue to work hard and increase their study output this term and the next. Work that they complete moving forward may be used to determine final grades, so every effort students make and every piece of work they complete allows teachers greater insight into their abilities. Whilst we do not yet know how students will be assessed, the removal of terminal exams in their normal format leaves few options. Students need to continue to work on coursework and NEAs until we hear otherwise. These will provide good evidence of ability if needed.

Whilst we look forward to having all pupils back in school with us later in the Spring, student progress is as important online as it is in the classroom. As soon as we know more I will share it with you and the students.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Quinn  
**Headteacher**