



Chew Valley School

Learn Grow Achieve

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Dear Chew Valley students in Years 11 and 13

I sat with my family and listened to the Prime Minister last night speak about moving the country back into a lockdown scenario and to close schools for most students once more until half term. Although you have already been in this situation last year the fact that this has happened now has meant that as he mentioned there is a need for the examinations you should be sitting in the summer to be reviewed.

It is really important to say that he did not say that everything was definitely cancelled. As the BBC website reported his comments led to the conclusion that 'it might mean it is not possible or fair for all examinations to happen this summer 'as normal', and the Education Secretary will work with the examination regulator Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements'. What those are will need to be worked through and as soon as we know more information then we would want to let you and your families have this.

Some of you are sitting public examinations in the next few days and we would very much want you to continue to do your best here. It might well be in the fullness of time that these examinations are very much included in any outcome from the summer. Year 11 have sat their mock examinations with Year 13 lined up to do them in a week or two and we will run these remotely. Last year these were looked at retrospectively **as part** of the package which created what were known as Centre Assessed Grades (CAGS) which became for the most part the final grades that all students were awarded. Staff were asked to look at a variety of different aspects of work in order to come up with the final grade. We are sure if the government through Ofqual decide that this is where they might go once more then we would want students to be reassured that the staff here at Chew Valley know you as learners very well and will be able to make fair and accurate judgements. Also if we did follow that route then there is a whole moderating process where subjects come together to look at results and then they are revisited by senior staff before they are signed off.

It is entirely possible that some form of examinations continue to be part of the package in forming the grades albeit there may be fewer papers sat or the school could be setting them in a similar way to mock examinations. We will have to wait and see.

All of this very much leads to the key message which is to keep on fully working. On line lessons will continue to develop your knowledge and understanding so that whichever way you are assessed you are able to show yourself in the best light. Many of you in both year groups have shown how committed you are to your studies and although the final outcomes are really important in the fact that part of their role is to secure your next step be that into a sixth form or college for Year 11 or a university or apprenticeship for Year 13 or for both years potentially straight into the world of work.

To that end the school and the careers team are going to relentlessly focus on supporting you into your next step. Many of you have met with Mrs Farr, our careers advisor already and we will continue to put you first. Colleges and universities will no doubt in coming weeks and months respond to today's announcement and the subsequent decision making process and we know they will want to put students and fairness at the heart of everything they do.

We are so very aware of how much disruption you have had to put up with over the past year with regards to your education and all of the staff feel for you at this moment. We have watched you grow and develop during your time with us and to now be faced with some amount of time of uncertainty

whilst things are sorted out can be extremely unsettling we know. Everyone will continue to do the very best they can to make sure that the futures you are aiming for are very much possible.

It does seem very disheartening at the moment however the news of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine amongst others is now being used gives us hope that following this period of lockdown ahead of us we hopefully will be in a position where we can get students back into Chew Valley School and continue their learning for the rest of the academic year.

If you do have any questions please do contact staff and ask them - they are very much here for you.

Do take care of yourselves and your families through this period.

With the very best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Beynon', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr Beynon
Headteacher