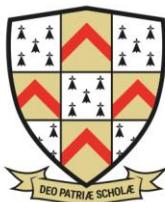


8 January 2021



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL LICHFIELD

Upper St John Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire WS14 9EE

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Headteacher: Ms J Rutherford BA (Hons)

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope this finds you and your families well. This has been such a strange time for all students, including Year 13. Again, we find ourselves adapting to a different way of life. Although this is an uncertain time, school is here for students and their families. Please remind students that school will be there to support them throughout and will always do their best for students.

We have been hugely impressed by Year 13 over the Autumn Term and their adaptability and resilience. We would like to highlight the successes they have achieved under very difficult circumstances: returning to lessons, completing mock examinations and completing post 18 applications to name a few. Students should be respected and praised for not only working through the challenging year that Year 13 is, but also dealing with this as well as the situation we face globally.

At this time, it is important to prioritise wellbeing and to look out for others. Tutors will be contacting students, beginning with their scheduled PSHE lesson on Monday. If you wish to access further support, there are some excellent resources available through the NHS and MIND websites.

In terms of examinations, the Prime Minister and the Education Secretary have announced that Level 3 examinations will not take place in the Summer in the normal way. The government have stated that results will be a, "form of teacher-assessed grades which, with training and support provided, will be awarded fairly and consistently around the country." Ofqual are carrying out a detailed consultation over the next few weeks. Although we are awaiting further details on this, we anticipate that it will incorporate a range of evidence including all future work up until the end of the academic year and that continued effort of the students in the coming months will be reflected in any overall grade.

We therefore encourage students to engage in all aspects of their remote learning. This includes communication with their staff, including when they need support to gain understanding. The hard work they have already put into their Level 3 qualifications will help them to further develop in their subjects over the coming weeks. Although the current situation is challenging, engaging in independent learning is a skill which will be beneficial for all routes post 18. Many students are going to use the knowledge and skills from their level 3 qualifications in their post 18 options, so ensuring high levels of understanding and developing skills will help them to make a positive next step.

The subject evening for parents to meet with teaching staff virtually will take place next week, the week beginning 11th January. This will give you the opportunity to meet with subject teachers to receive feedback about attitude to learning, strengths and areas for development in each subject. Teachers will be unable to discuss specific grades for individual students to preserve the integrity and objectivity of any process that is put in place to determine the Level 3 qualification teacher-assessed grades.

Usually at this time of year we look forward to planning the Year 13 ball and leaving activities. Whilst we know that this cannot take place in its usual form, we will find a way to celebrate the achievements of the year group. I would like to reiterate that Year 13 students should be respected for the way in which they have responded to such a challenging set of circumstances.

Please remind students that although we are not seeing them face to face, we are here to support them and their tutors and teachers can be contacted via SMHW.

We will continue to keep you updated with developments.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. D. Butler
(Assistant Headteacher) **Miss. J. Williamson**
(Sixth Form Achievement Leader)