



Ark Elvin Academy

5 January 2021

Dear Y11 pupils and parents, carers,

As I am sure you are aware last night the Prime Minister announced the second national lockdown. He also announced that GCSE, BTEC and A Level exams will not take place this summer in the normal way. The full details about what will happen have not been shared yet but at this stage it seems reasonable to expect pupils will receive grades based on a similar system to 2020. This involved teachers assessing performance using class and homework, coursework, mock exam results and other evidence.

I am aware of the shock and disappointment this news will bring. The government had consistently told pupils, parents and teachers that exams would happen this year, and we all planned on that basis. However, once the initial shock has worn off, I would urge you all to consider these three points, as they should provide some reassurance:

- **Your hard work will still be recognised.** None of the effort you have shown so far, and will continue to show in the coming months, will be wasted. On the contrary, the new system will make sure this is fully reflected in your final grade.
- **Our eventual results will be indistinguishable from real exams.** In the long run, it won't matter that your grades came via this system. You will still be able to progress to Sixth Form and University in the normal way. The value of your GCSE, BTEC and A Level qualifications is not being altered, only the way they are administered. None of your ambitions for the future will be affected by this decision.
- **The new system will be fair and balanced.** Grades will be awarded based on objective evidence. Any grades that your teachers set will be moderated carefully, to ensure they are consistent within and between schools.

This news means that our start of term arrangements are going to be different. It also means that you will be moving to live on-line lessons from home next Monday.

I have outlined the start of term arrangements below:

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Cecil Avenue Wembley Middlesex HA9 7DU

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4 th -5 th January	Staff training days
6, 7 and 8 th January	<p style="text-align: center;">Year 11 pupils working from home</p> <p>Pupils to complete the homework tasks set for the Christmas holidays and additional tasks set for this week Click on this link for further details.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Form tutor phone calls home</p> <p>Your form tutor will call home to make sure you are clear about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The home learning tasks you need to complete this week • How to access your on-line learning next week • If you will need a place in our community classroom • If you have any questions about the changes to the exams this week <p style="text-align: center;">Community classrooms for all key worker and vulnerable pupils (From 7th January)</p>
Week beginning 11 th January	<p style="text-align: center;">All pupils working on-line from home</p> <p>Pupils to follow their year groups online timetable (see here) and access all on-line lessons and tasks from 0830 each morning</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Community classrooms for all key worker's children and vulnerable pupils</p>

Virtual parents meeting

On Thursday we will be holding virtual parent's meetings to talk through online learning and how we will support your child through to the end of Year 11.

Parents and carers with pupils in Year 11 should join this meeting at 4pm on Thursday – [please follow this link.](#)

Community classrooms

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From Thursday 7th January we will open our community classroom provision to the following groups of children:

- Children of key workers
- Vulnerable pupils including SEN pupils.

If you are a key worker and would like to request a place for you child in our community classroom provision, please [click here](#).

Children in the community classrooms will be supported to complete all the on-line learning that children at home will be set.

Accessing on-line learning years 7-12 from 11th January

For your child to learn from home next week they will need the following:

- Access to a laptop and internet connection
- A quiet space for them to work from
- A pen and paper

They should be ready to join their online form time at 0830 every morning and will have a mixture of live lessons and online learning tasks set each day. You can find their on-line timetable [here](#).

If you have any concerns about them accessing our on-line lessons from next week, please let your child's form tutor know at the parent review meeting on Wednesday. If your child is in Year 11 their form tutor will be calling you this week to make sure they have everything they need to access the on-line learning.

Free School Meals

Throughout the national lockdown we will continue to send all families who receive Free School Meals their weekly voucher. If your child is attending our community classroom you will not receive this voucher as they will be provided with a free lunch.

If your financial situation has changed recently and you think you might now be eligible for free school meals please click [here](#) for more information about how to apply.

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If you need urgent food, please contact Brent Council for a food voucher on 020 8937 5796 and select option 3.

Place2Be have information and advice on how to look after your family's mental health during lockdown. [Click here](#) to access this information.

If you and your family are struggling in anyway, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly – we are here to help... every step of the way.

I know that you will feel shocked and in many ways disappointed – anyone would be in your position. But in the coming days you will process the news, and in the long run you will be absolutely fine. Your teachers were aware of this possibility and will guide and support you through the remainder of this year. For now, just turn up to all your online lessons, keep working hard, and know that every piece of work you complete will still make a difference.

Stay safe – stay home and keep learning

Please do not hesitate to contact the school at any stage if you have any concerns or questions. We are in this together!

Take care,

Ms Curtis
Principal

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