



Ark Elvin Academy

5 January 2021

Dear Y12 students 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 students will receive grades based on a similar system last year when your teachers assessed performance using class and homework, coursework, mock exam results and other evidence.

I know that those of you who are revising for your Science BTEC exam next week will want to know if this is still going ahead. We are waiting to hear from the exam board and will update as soon as we can and hopefully tomorrow. For now, you should assume that this exam will go ahead.

I really do understand how worrying this change is for you all. However, the situation is different this year in that you still have a significant amount of your course to complete and so all your teaching will now go online from Monday onwards. It is really important that you 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.
- **Your 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 through our Sixth Form and University in the normal way. The value of your GCSE and BTEC 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.

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This news means that our start of term arrangements are going to be different.

I have outlined the start of term arrangements below:

4 th -5 th January	Staff training days
6 th January	Parent Review Day On-line individual parent meetings with your child's form tutor
7 th & 8 th January	Year 12 students working from home Students to complete the homework tasks set for the Christmas holidays and additional tasks set for this week Click on this link for further details. Community classrooms for all key worker and vulnerable students
Week beginning 11 th January	All students working on-line from home Students to follow their year groups online timetable (see here) and access all on-line lessons and tasks from 0830 each morning Community classrooms for all key worker children and vulnerable students

Community classrooms

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

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

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.

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Accessing online learning from 11th January

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

- 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 online timetable [here](#).

If you have any concerns about them accessing our online lessons from next week please let your child's form tutor know when they call you on Wednesday.

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.

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

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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