

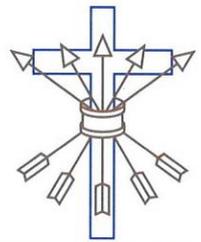
WADDESDON CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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Headteacher: **Matthew Abbott**



18th May 2020

Dear Year 12 Parents/Carers,

We hope you and your families are keeping well. We have been very impressed by how Year 12 students have responded to their online learning since school closure and by their mature, pro-active and independent approach. As well as our school focus on well-being, one of our highest priorities is ensuring Year 12 students do not fall behind in their learning so they are not disadvantaged.

We are currently considering the recent government announcement about possible face-to-face support for Year 12 prior to the summer and emerging advice from the Department for Education, but please rest assured, your son/daughter and family's safety as well as the safety of our staff is at the forefront of our minds. We will be in contact with you again when we know more, but in the meantime, please see below for how we are supporting your son/daughter:

Online learning

Teachers have been working hard to ensure online lessons are as clear and helpful as possible and Subject Leaders have also reviewed their curriculum models to ensure the most appropriate content is being covered via online delivery. Consolidation and revision work is being delivered. We have asked teachers to log any student who is not accessing and/or submitting lesson work and we are contacting home to alert you to this, as well as offering any additional support the student might need.

Please note that the online work teachers set might extend beyond each hour long lesson; this takes into account that students have study periods built into each school day to work independently and usually time to complete work at home, after the school day. Equally, on certain days, if your son/daughter has more learning time available, we recommend students create condensed revision flashcards or mind-maps to consolidate their learning as well as memorising key content, as they have been doing in study periods in school. If your son/daughter is struggling with online learning in a particular subject, they can send a message to the teacher directly to ask for help or if they are struggling more generally, you are very welcome to contact one of us via office@waddesdonschool.com for further support. When school re-opens, teachers will be mindful of ensuring any gaps in learning are resolved.

Well-being

We are also very mindful of students' mental and physical well-being during this challenging time. Through our Sixth Form weekly e-Bulletin, which is posted on Show My Homework every Monday, we recommend different online resources which students can access each week. Your son/daughter might find the following websites useful or they are welcome to make contact with us via the school office e-mail:

Young Minds: <https://youngminds.org.uk/blog/what-to-do-if-you-re-anxious-about-coronavirus/>

Anna Freud Self-Care: <https://www.annafreud.org/on-my-mind/self-care/>

Kooth online counselling: <https://www.kooth.com/>

Year 12 End of Year Exams: postponed

As you will be aware from previous correspondence, students were due to sit A level-style exam papers in each of their subjects during the week of 15th June in the Sports Hall. Exams at the end of Year 12 give students the important experience of sitting papers half way through their two-year A level programme and help your son/daughter, parents and teachers to assess progress. Following further uncertainty over how schools might safely re-open and the need for social distancing, we obviously cannot hold these formal exams as planned.

Instead, to ensure students have the important experience of completing past papers and to help them maintain their motivation in the coming weeks, we will hold an online **past paper question focus week** during 15th June. Each of your son/daughter's teachers will set students one short set of past paper exam questions to complete via Show My Homework during one of their lessons that week and once submitted, will provide feedback. **To reduce any student anxiety, these past paper questions will be completed with access to textbooks and notes.** Past paper questions from each teacher will take no longer than 1 hour to complete. Teachers will continue to support students with past paper technique through online lessons in the run up to the week of 15th June.

Once school re-opens fully and it is safe to do so, we will organise for students to sit A level style exam questions in timed exam conditions in school. We will give students as much notice as possible about the timing of these. In the meantime, we continue to strongly recommend students complete their condensed revision notes and memorise key content to revise as they move through their courses, a process which has been reinforced since Assessment Week last autumn.

Feedback to parents

As we could not go ahead with Year 12 Parents' Evening in March, we are currently reviewing how we can provide feedback to you about your son/daughter's progress this year.

Careers, post 18 options support and work experience

To extend and enhance the taught curriculum, we have launched the MOOC challenge with students as well as providing them with suggested online super-curricular enrichment activities they can be completing at home to prepare for their post 18 options, for example, university presentations, virtual open days or online courses. If your son/daughter isn't yet sure what they want to do after Sixth Form, there is also a post 18 options resource on Show My Homework, to support them with guided research and narrowing down their choices. The following websites are useful for parents:

University: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/ucas-undergraduate-advice-parents-and-guardians>

Degree Apprenticeships:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/781848/Uni_Appr_guide2019_web2.pdf

Virtual University Open Day experiences: <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/after-you-apply/coronavirus-covid-19/attend-virtual-open-day>

We regret that due to continued uncertainty over when schools and work places will open and how this will look, students will not be able to go on their work experience placements in July. The following websites provide excellent virtual work experience opportunities and these have been advertised to students already: <https://barclayslifefskills.com/i-want-virtual-work-experience/school/> or <https://www.speakersforschools.org/experience-2/vwex/>

If you have any questions or we can help in any other way, please do not hesitate to get in contact with either of us. Thank you for your ongoing support from home; it is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Annalies McIver
Head of Sixth Form

Nicci Aldridge
Head of Year 12