

Dear Parent/Carer

Following my brief comments on the news update last night regarding Year 11 students, I thought I should now try to give you a little more detail to address the inevitable questions and concerns that you have.

Firstly, this is an incredibly sad time for the school as we all feel for the students who have worked so hard and for so long in preparation for their exams. In addition to this, the school closure may well mean that this is the last time we see the students together as a year group.

We are expecting a statement from the Secretary of State for Education tomorrow regarding how qualifications will be awarded for the Class of 2020. There is a lot of speculation in the media some of which is less than helpful. In my assembly with the year group this morning I reassured them that the cancellation of exams will not affect their future choices as post 16 providers will work with schools to identify the appropriate pathways going forward.

This is a very unsettling time for all and our Year 11 students will be feeling a whole range of emotions. We have put in place a package of support over the next two days to help them through this, ranging from one to one to celebrations.

I want to make these two days a positive experience for the students where they feel supported, but also where they feel happy and reflect on their time here at John Spence. We do not know if Year 11 will be returning to school as we do not know the length of the closure, so it is even more important for us to celebrate everything that they have achieved. The organisation of today and tomorrow are as follows:

Thursday 19th March

- Registration – Assembly
- Period 1 – With Form Tutors
- Periods 2 & 3 – Normal Lessons
- Period 4 – With Form Tutors
- Lunchtime
- Students will be allowed to go home at 12.45pm

Friday 20th March – Celebration

- Students should arrive in school at 11.15 and go to main hall
- Students will be able to home at 1pm.

If students wish to stay behind for advice or support on either day that is absolutely fine.

We will also buy every student in Year 11 a Leaver's Hoodie. If your child is currently not in school, you will be contacted for what size your child needs. As yet, we have not made any decisions about the Prom.

The Government announcement also stated that schools will stay open for certain students and this remains the case for Year 11 as well as every other year groups. A questionnaire will be sent to all parents later this morning to allow us to plan provision for next week.

Please do get in touch if you have any specific queries about support for your child, but also please check the updates on our website news page where we will post information as and when it comes into school.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and wish you and your families all the best during this difficult time.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Heath', is enclosed in a light blue rectangular box.

Jonathan Heath
Headteacher