

## A Message to all Year 11 Students

You will have heard that today the Minister for Education, Gavin Williamson, has announced that all examinations in the summer have been cancelled due to the unprecedented disruption to education over the past 10 months and that they will be replaced by teacher assessment. I am sure you will all be feeling mixed emotions from relief that the uncertainty is over, to real disappointment that you do not have the opportunity to show the world what you can do.

In amongst all these emotions will be varying degrees of anxiety about what it means to have final grades decided by teacher assessment alone. The reasons for this anxiety could be poor performance on a single exam, a lack of effort in coursework in Year 10 or any number of other factors. To help put your mind at rest I would urge you to consider the following points:

- Every year teachers are asked to generate predicted grades for students and they do so with a good degree of accuracy when compared to actual exam results. This means that teachers understand the whole range of factors that lead to a student achieving a particular grade in the final exam from assessments to classwork to homework.
- Teachers understand that students will develop and make progress at different rates. An example of this might be a student who has coasted in Year 10, but has the personality and has demonstrated the potential that they will pick up the pace in Year 11 and make expected progress. At the other end of the spectrum they recognise where a student goes above and beyond consistently so that they will exceed their target grades. Teachers and school leaders draw on their huge experience of collectively teaching thousands of students over many years to help them make these decisions.
- **You still have time** to make progress and improve your grades in all subjects as it is the work that you have done in Year 10 already alongside the work you have completed this year and potential that you show in the coming months that will determine the predictions you get.
- We have already been through this process last year and have very good systems in place to ensure grades are awarded fairly and with accuracy.

You may also be concerned about what this means regarding progression to your choice of education or training post 16. You should try not to worry about this as all post 16 providers are fully aware of the position your year group is in and last year's Year 11 all gained places on the courses that they had aimed for; this will be the case for you if you continue to show the commitment that the vast majority of you displayed last term.

The most important thing you can do now is, firstly keep working. Secondly, talk to your teachers and your form tutors as they will be able to put your minds at rest even more. As further details emerge from today's announcement we will be in a position to explain the process of predicting grades, but be assured we will continue to do everything we can to support you through this difficult time.

Stay safe and my best wishes to you and your family.

Mr Heath

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Telephone · 0191 296 1432

Preston Road · North Shields · Tyne and Wear · NE29 9PU

jschs.office@ntl.org.uk · [www.johnspence.org.uk](http://www.johnspence.org.uk)