



To Our Year 11 Students

We understand that at the moment you are experiencing great uncertainty, sadness and worry. This is a normal feeling and one shared by Year 11 students across the country. As I said in assembly this morning, school is far more than a set of exam grades. It is about the relationships you make, the learning you complete and your development into young adults. None of these will be affected by the current uncertainty and upheaval. Whilst you may not complete exams, you will all be supported to access your next phase of education and we will help you in every way we can. School may be pretty much closed, but we are at the end of the phone, an Epraise message away and will have staff in school for the foreseeable future. Please don't worry in silence; contact us if you have a question, however small. Speak to us if you are worried or particularly concerned. We may not always have the answer, but we can talk to you and tell you what we know. Please make sure you keep busy as this will help your mental health. Complete the work you have been set and focus on the subjects you will need for next year. Use your time to develop existing skills and try new ones, such as developing your creative talents in music and the arts, focusing on your extended writing or any other hobby that you can develop in the current circumstances. The powerpoint here may help you focus over the coming weeks and provide some guidance regarding your mental health.

I am aware that you have never had a non-uniform day during your time at Whitstone School. I would like to change that. Tomorrow will be a non-uniform day for you (Year 11 only). You do not need to bring in any money or food but have the chance to wear your own clothes for the day. I hope this makes you smile following a tough few days.

You have been an amazing year group. As I said this morning, we will make sure that you have all of the 'goodbye' moments that every other Year 11 has had. These may not look exactly the same, but they will happen nonetheless. So for now, look forward to your bright futures. They are unchanged. We will keep in touch regarding your shirt signings, Prom, Dress Smart Day and all the other last stages of secondary education. This is certainly not goodbye and we look forward to seeing you as a full year group again soon.

Take care.

Mr Swallow and all the staff at Whitstone School