



6 May 2020

Dear Year 11 Student,

As you will be aware, on Friday 20th March we said a relatively hasty 'goodbye' to you following the news that all schools would be closed until further notice. We all shared your sadness at the sudden end to your time at Whitstone School and I promised that we would make sure that we supported you over the coming weeks and months. I thought that now would be a good time to update you on where we are in terms of both supporting as you move onto your next steps in education and also the different aspects of your 'goodbye' from Whitstone School.

Your Final Grades

As you will know, all examinations for Year 11 students have been cancelled this year. Your grades will be based on what are being called 'Teacher Assessed Grades'. These grades will be decided by your teachers before being checked by Ofqual, an organisation that makes sure grades are fair. Please do not worry about these. Firstly, they will be a fair estimate of how you would have performed in the summer examination and will not just be based on one piece of work. Secondly, your teachers know you and your understanding of each subject really well and will be able to give you a grade that is accurate and that has been carefully considered. We have produced a clear, consistent approach for all of our teachers to decide on grades for you. This will mean that everyone uses the same approach for setting grades.

Your Next Steps

I am sure you are in the process of thinking about your plans for September. I know that Colleges and Sixth Forms are busy sending out information regarding different courses, Google Classroom resources and virtual open days. If all of this information is proving confusing or you would like help in planning for September, please send Mrs Hooper an Epraise message. Mrs Hooper is in regular contact with local Colleges and will be able to help you.

Your Prom

We have thought long and hard about your Prom. As large gatherings are unlikely to be safe before the summer holiday, we have made the decision to postpone Prom. This is certainly not a cancellation and as soon as we know further details regarding lockdown and future social distancing, we will be in touch with you regarding a new date for Prom. This will still be a wonderful way of bringing together your year group and the staff who have worked with you and will be an opportunity to hear how everyone is getting on in their post-16 studies. If you have used your Epraise points to 'buy' a Prom ticket, then we will still count this for whenever the Prom is held.

I will be in touch with you again before the end of the year regarding your Prom and the plans for the evening. I believe that we should hold the evening in the same way as we would have done this term.

Leavers' Hoodies

Miss Flower has been working hard to organise 'Leavers' Hoodies' for you all. Thank you to Miss Flower for all she has done with this. I am hopeful that all of you who wanted a Leavers Hoodie have bought one. If you have any queries about these, please do send Miss Flower an Epraise message.

A Small Goodbye From Us

Please keep an eye on your post over the coming weeks. We will be sending you all something, so please keep an eye out!

Results Day

It is unclear at this moment whether we will be able to hold a full, 'normal' Results Day given the Covid-19 virus. I will be in touch again before the end of the academic year in July to hopefully provide more information on how we will give you your results. We are hopeful that we can provide you with something that represents a Results Day and marks the hard work you have put in during your time at Whitstone School.

Graduation Ceremony

For the first time this year, we would like to hold a 'Graduation Ceremony' for the whole year group. This will take place at some point during the next academic year and will be an opportunity for you to return to school with your parents, receive your GCSE and BTEC certificates and also the presentation of key awards such as Faculty prizes. You will receive more information by the end of the academic year however, please do keep an eye out as I am sure it will be a wonderful occasion to celebrate your five years at Whitstone School.

A Chance to Leave a Legacy

Over the past few weeks, we have been able to have decorators in school working safely to paint our corridors. We have taken down some artwork and displays and have refreshed each area of school. The final part we are missing is some artwork from our Year 11 students and it would be sad for you to leave without having the opportunity to contribute to this initiative.

As a result, we would love those students who took Art at GCSE to produce a piece of work to be displayed in our corridors. These can be small pieces or larger ones, can be produced using different materials and can match any of the themes we provide. It will be your opportunity to produce the 'Final Piece' you never had the chance to complete. Mrs Lipin will be in touch over the next week or so with more information and the chance to shape the way our school looks for the students who follow in your footsteps.

Finally...

I hope that during these difficult times you are coping and can begin to look back on your successes whilst at Whitstone School. As I said before you left, you are still our students and this will not end in July. As you can hopefully see from the information above, we will make sure that we keep our promise of saying 'goodbye' properly, even if this means certain aspects being delayed until the next academic year.

Look after yourselves and do keep in touch.

Yours faithfully



Mr Swallow
Headteacher