



LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

7th January 2021

Dear Parent

I would like to say although it is very early days of this lockdown I am very pleased with the way pupils have responded to working from home and remote learning. We have all learnt a lot since March and I know everyone is in a much better place to engage in the on-line lessons. As with any technology there will always be blips but we will endeavour to deliver as many lessons on TEAMS as possible and the addition of Show My Homework will mean that pupils and parents will find it easier to know what work has been set for pupils to complete.

Cancellation of Examinations

We now know that the A-level and GCSE examinations have been cancelled for the summer of 2021 and that teacher estimated grades (Centre Assessed Grades, CAGS) will be used. The exams watchdog Ofqual will draw up proposals for an alternative way of deciding results, for qualifications that could be used for jobs, staying on in school or university places. Simon Lebus, the watchdog's interim head, said evidence for replacement grades could include tests, homework, mock exams and teacher observations and would take into account how much of the syllabus had been covered. A consultation is expected to begin next week with plans to be decided by the end of February.

I should imagine the process will be very much the same as the one adopted by the school last year in that all assessments and classwork are taken into account when a teacher awards a grade. This will then go through a department moderation to ensure consistency across the year group. These grades will then be moderated by the Senior Leadership Team and last year we also used external verification before the results were submitted. I want to assure parents and pupils that we will undertake a rigorous procedure looking at all evidence not just mock results when it comes to awarding grades.

There is a big difference from last year when effectively the teaching for Year 11 and 13 stopped when it was announced that the examinations were cancelled. This will not happen this year and we expect Year 11 and 13 pupils to ensure that they engage fully in their remote learning and their lessons when we return to school. It is vital that they put in their best efforts as the grades they are awarded will take into account all of their work from the start of the course until they officially finish their course at the end of June. Year 13 will have their PPEs next week which they have been revising for since before Christmas but they should not worry that their final grades will rest on what they gain in these exams. This is also true for the year 11 mocks taken in December as mocks are only one indication of what a pupil may potentially gain and give teachers knowledge of where to target future learning.

We plan to still hold Vocational exams as pupils have prepared for these but we will advise pupils and parents if this to change for future examinations.



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Operational Principal: Mr G Pearson
Vice Principal: Miss S Hesten

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Teaching and Learning

We are now in our first week of home learning and teaching staff have adapted quickly to continue teaching good quality lessons.

Online lessons

Live lessons will be on Microsoft Teams – invites for this will be set up by the teacher and will be held at the normal lesson time so that pupils can follow normal school timetables. We ask that pupils attend on time, dressed appropriately and ready to learn. Research shows that keeping to a set routine (e.g. following normal lesson timings, getting dressed, etc) can support good emotional well-being.

Work will be set through Show My Homework and parents and carers should receive parental alerts; this will make it easier for both pupils and parents/carers to keep track of the work set. Miss Hesten, Vice Principal, has asked staff to make sure each piece of work has a clear title, a time guide, and is set during their normal lesson time.

We appreciate that there may be pressure on devices and as a school we have secured laptops for pupils to use at home. Please contact the school should you wish to request a laptop or a data card to support with internet access.

Logins and Access

Pupils should use their LPA email address and password to login and access Show My Homework, Microsoft Teams and Office365. More information on accessing these platforms can be found on the school website.

Submission of tasks

Staff will indicate how they would like work to be submitted – the range of submission will include submitting tasks on Show My Homework, or directly to staff through email. Please note pupils should use their LPA email address at all times when corresponding with staff.

Differentiation continues with scaffolding/extension and opportunities for pupils to ask questions. SEND pupils should have adapted work and a teaching assistant will attend lessons where possible to provide further support. Teachers will invite TAs to the TEAMS meeting and the breakout function can be used to enable TAs and pupils to work together.

Pupils will be expected to take an active part in lesson, with their cameras turned on with a blurred background. They will have direct questions from their teachers to check understanding and will be encouraged to contribute to class discussions.

Assessment

Assessments this will follow the LPA Marking and Assessment Policy, with a mid-term and end of term assessment. Peer and self-assessment will continue to support learning.



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Equipment

Due to the timing of the announcement earlier this week some pupils will not have access to exercise books and therefore we ask pupils complete work and keep it safe and organised, either in another book or online. Should you require an exercise book please contact your child's pastoral support assistant who will support providing one. Other equipment can also be requested such as for art and design and where possible we will try to provide this - please contact subject teachers.

Engagement and Behaviour

As part of the remote and blended learning offer, live lessons will be facilitated on TEAMS. The live lesson is to allow pupils to have instant direction from the teacher. In order to engage within this remote learning environment, we would ask all pupils to:

- Accept the TEAMS invite and join the live lesson.
- Only unmute the microphone when requested by your teacher, cameras on.
- Use the chat to answer questions as directed by your teacher.
- Use the raise hand function to indicate to your teacher that need to ask a question.

Pupils must not:

- Invite any other pupils into any live lessons.
- Use inappropriate language in any discussion.
- Use the chat function for anything other than that directed by the teacher (no emojis, inappropriate comments or social chit chat).
- Unmute yourself without direction.
- Share your screen.

Live lessons are essential and our expectations of behaviour is the same as in lessons at school. We will be continuing to issue positive reward and negative consequence points based on attitude and effort during these lessons.

Any breaches of these expectations will result in sanctions and will be treated as disruptive behaviour. In order to respect the learning environment pupils, need to adhere to these guidelines or consequences including exclusion may be considered.

Homework and after school learning

These are currently on hold; however, we will be providing well-being and challenge activities should pupils wish to engage.

Reading

We ask pupils to continue reading (this can be books, online, and other sources); at least 15 minutes each day would be suggested.

Having fun, relaxing, taking exercise are all important and should be built into the school day.



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We

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appreciate that this may be a difficult time for many families and do not want to add further pressure, therefore should your child need additional support or issues arise with home learning please contact your tutor or the pastoral team, who will continue to support pupils.

Safeguarding

The DFE have asked schools to encourage students at home to:-

- Encouraging regular hand-washing more often
- Reminders to avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
- Reminders to cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in a bin and wash your hands
- Surfaces and equipment should be cleaned and disinfected frequently

We have also been asked to ensure that parents are aware of the Government advice that victims of domestic violence **are** able to leave their house to seek refuge if their safety is at risk during the lockdown.

There are useful links on the safeguarding page on the school website

<https://www.lydiardparkacademy.org.uk/about-us/safeguarding>

Mass Testing

The school is continuing to plan for the mass testing of pupils as per Government guidance for when pupils return to school we will initially only test staff and pupils who are in school but will be ready to mass test pupils when all pupils return to school. Since my communication over Christmas the Government have updated their guidance to say that a Privacy Notice must also be sent which I have attached to this communication. If as a result of the Privacy Notice you wish to withdraw consent then please just email the school at ask@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk. You can withdraw consent at any time during the process and we would just need to be advised of this.

I appreciate that these are difficult times and will keep parents updated with any changes to Government guidance. Please click on the following link for a video message

<https://youtu.be/pVICa7Qe304>.

Kind Regards

Mr Pearson
Principal



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