



5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

At Ark Alexandra Academy, we have faith in what we do and show kindness and compassion for our community, empowering excellence. This has never been so true as during the second school period of lockdown.

The news last night for Year 11 may well have been tough to hear. They have worked so hard and coped so well with everything the last year has brought - we remain immensely proud of them, as we are of all our pupils. Please reassure your child that these things remain constant:

- Hard work pays off - their efforts will still be rewarded.
- They will still receive high-quality teaching online.
- This season won't last forever. Keep going!

Given the amount of contradictory information we have received over the last few weeks, I thought it would be useful to write to you to confirm plans as they stand. Last night, Prime Minister Boris Johnson said:

"It's not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal. The Education Secretary will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements."

We were disappointed to see the news reporting "Summer exams cancelled" – we do not believe this to be the case. Our understanding of 'alternative arrangements' is that this will include some subject examination papers, along with teacher-based assessments, including mock examinations and independent tasks, coursework and non-examined assessments (NEA). It will take time for the Education Secretary to work through the new arrangements. When we are informed, we will host a parent information session for parents and carers of Year 11.

In the meantime, our stance and very clear message is that we are continuing online just as we would do if students were physically in school. Attendance, punctuality, effort and participation are all essential. Students should continue to work as if exams are going ahead. Year 11 must also prepare for post-16 study, where we anticipate baseline assessment to access courses.

We would like to welcome all our Year 11s to return to the Sixth Form but have to ensure that they have the academic ability for A levels and the strength of character and work ethic for the professional pathways. The work they complete over the next period will prove that they are ready for Key Stage 5.

Distance learning begins on **Thursday 7th January**; students should follow their timetable and log into Teams and Show My Homework. How to guides and information on remote learning can be found here (<https://arkalexandra.org/teaching-learning/remote-learning>). We look forward to seeing our young people logging on with the optimism, determination and courage which defines Alexandra students.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Liam Collins'.

Liam Collins
Principal

Principal: Mr L Collins
Network Associate Principal: Mr J Scafe