



5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Year 11,

Following the announcement from our Prime Minister, I would imagine that you have mixed feelings at this moment in time; totally understandable.

I am currently waiting on further advice from the government and will write to you and your parents as soon as possible to clarify the situation.

The news about your GCSEs exams at this moment is unclear. However, you have my word that I will work out what the government plans to do and I will explain things for you over the coming days and weeks. In the meantime, don't second guess things or believe everything you hear on social media.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, and especially since we returned to school in September, for the overwhelming majority of you, your attitude to learning has been outstanding, and you have done everything we have asked of you. It's now time to build on what you've achieved so far, and most importantly, keep going. Ultimately, it is not the exams themselves that will set you up for the future, but the **knowledge, skills and attributes** that you have developed and will continue to develop that will place you in the best position to move on to your chosen destination next year. Your teachers were aware of this probability and will guide and support you through the remainder of this year.

The bottom line is that all of you are preparing to go onto college or an apprenticeship and you need to keep working at your studies to ensure you are fully prepared for this, regardless of what plans the Government have in place for your exams. **For now, just turn up to all your online lessons, keep working hard, and know that every piece of work you complete will still make a difference.**

Any GCSE coursework (for subjects like child care, photography, textiles, music etc) **WILL** need to be completed and your teachers will support you with this remotely.

It is at times like this, that we all need to remember the Clifton Way. So put your energy into controlling what you can, continue to work hard and believe in yourselves.

You are a great set of students, both individually and collectively, and my staff and I are dead proud of you and your achievements so far.

Dig deep Year 11 and stick at it. I will be in touch shortly.

Regards

Mr Hardcastle  
Headteacher

Mr Duroe  
Head of Year 11

"We aim to send every young person into the world able and qualified to play their full role in it"