

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. The messages many of you have sent to us really make a difference and boost our morale. It is interesting to see so many students now asking, 'when can I come back to school?'

We know the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday, stating that schools will not open until at least Monday 8 March is not what we hoped for. We want to see the students back in school, as we realise learning from home can never replicate being in school with staff and friends.

During the next few weeks it will be important for all of us to work together to support not only the student's education but their emotional, social and physical well-being. The regular welfare checks, keeping in touch via the weekly Ramsey@Home, attendance at assemblies and tutor times, well-being challenges and attendance to lessons, will all contribute to a sense of 'normality'.

We know the uncertainty about the GCSE and BTEC examinations in the summer is causing concern. At the moment the Government are conducting a consultation to gather views on the proposals for how the grades will be awarded.

We have the same questions as you. What will the assessment involve? When will the grades need to be submitted? What will be examined? Plus, lots of other questions. Hopefully, we will know in a few weeks the answers to all the questions.

What we do know is that the students still need to stay focused and motivated to achieve good grades. Attendance at lessons and completion of all work is important.

The teachers will need to assess various pieces of work to estimate a grade because students will not be taking external examinations. When we know the outcomes of the Government consultation, we will update you about what will happen in school to ensure the students have the best chances of achieving good grades.

Many of you have asked if the results from the mock examinations will be used. The answer is that they may be part of the overall picture, but the most important evidence is the work students produce in the next months. So, they still have time to make a difference to their final grades!

We will put in place a range of extra support for revision, catch-up classes, advice on careers or college applications and various assessments. This will allow students to show us what they know and for us to submit accurate grades that reflect their ability.

We are always trying to improve the lessons and the engagement of students. Everyone staring at a blank screen with lots of photographs is not the easiest way to promote discussion and interaction. Please encourage your child to switch on their camera if possible. Hopefully this will make the lessons more productive.

We are pleased with the high level of lesson attendance but there are still some students who could be better. If your child has attended less than half of their online lessons during the week you will receive a notification of this. This is necessary as it is part of our risk assessment process to safeguard students. If your child is unwell then please contact the school in the usual way.

Punctuality is also important. Unfortunately, some students are attending but joining late. This causes significant disruption to the lessons and interrupts the learning. Please talk to your child and ensure they log in at the start of the lesson.

Safeguarding continues to be a high priority. As a school we are required to retain our statutory duties to safeguard students and we have adapted our processes. As you are aware, we endeavour to remain in contact with all students through lessons and tutor times. As detailed in the 'Child Protection Policy' if we are unable to make contact then parents/carers will be contacted by email or phone. Please ensure you respond as quickly as possible. You can view the policy through the school website.

Mr. Leys is currently not in school. If you have any urgent issues please send your concerns to either office@ramseyacademy.com or rjames@ramseyacademy.com. We will contact you as soon as possible.

Once again thank you for your ongoing support.

Safe stay and best wishes

R James

CEO/Executive Headteacher