

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Dear Parents/Carers

**Ref: COVID 19 Remote Learning and GCSEs**

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister announced tonight that all schools must immediately move to remote provision alongside a national lockdown. Therefore, I wanted to write to you to reassure you of the following:

- Online learning will continue as planned with live lessons as communicated. If your child does not partake, we will contact you to offer support.
- We will be running an essential school from tomorrow, following normal school hours, for all children of key workers and for vulnerable pupils. If your child qualifies, please email [TDW@stjamesexeter.co.uk](mailto:TDW@stjamesexeter.co.uk) to request a place. Please do not send your child to school without confirming beforehand.
- We will be contacting those eligible for free school meals to ensure that they receive their meals and are supported during this time.

The Prime Minister also stated that it is 'not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal' and that the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, will work with Ofqual to 'put in place alternative arrangements'. I will keep you informed with any emerging information. Despite the fact that we are not currently sure how pupils will be assessed, it is vital that all year 11 pupils and year 10 literature pupils keep working hard to put them in the best possible position moving forward.

An exam was scheduled to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> January. It is currently unclear if this will go ahead. Pupils should continue to revise and we will contact all those involved tomorrow to confirm arrangements.

I am truly sorry and saddened that this is the case, both in relation to pupils having to work remotely and changes to GCSEs. I promise you that we will do everything that we can to ensure that your children get the best possible deal.

I will write to you again when I have more information to share. In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Take care and stay safe,



Lindsay Skinner  
Headteacher

