



Highworth Warneford School

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Dear Incredible Year 11 Student

There is a famous phrase: "May you live in interesting times." However, I know that you and your family must be feeling that the current unprecedented situation is far too interesting for comfort.

Having spoken to many of you today, it is absolutely understandable for you to be concerned about a wide variety of things, so I wanted to write to offer some reassurance.

First of all, the end of this week is definitely not goodbye. You are all still a really important part of our school community and we are going to make sure that we have opportunities to celebrate your time with us. You have been an amazing year group and there is no way that you are going to leave without that being properly recognised, even if it has to be done later in the year. For example, we definitely want to reschedule your awards ceremony.

I know many of you have specifically asked about the Prom. We have been in contact with the venue and their official line is that all events are currently going ahead as planned. I strongly suspect that this might change and it will be cancelled. If this is the case, then we would intend to postpone and rearrange it for another time – those dresses will definitely be needed! You would not lose any money if this were to happen.

I suspect that the main cause of concern will be the cancellation of your examinations and how you will be rewarded for all of your hard work over the past five years at the school. Early indications suggest that there will be some process involving your teachers giving predicted grades and/or looking at coursework, but this is still very unclear. What is absolutely certain is that there have been promises made at the very highest levels of government that you will not be disadvantaged as a year group because of what is happening. The most important thing is for you to not worry and look forward to your next steps – whether that is going to be an apprenticeship or place at a college or sixth form. The whole nation is on your side and there will be no barriers to you doing what you originally intended to do.

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Moving on to some practicalities:

- Exams will continue to run as normal tomorrow. As Mr Nye said today, these are another opportunity to show what you can do and might count in your favour. Don't forget that they won't be the only thing that is looked at though – don't panic! We will get the results back to you at some stage soon.
- Don't forget to bring a spare shirt and Sharpie or board pen tomorrow – you can sign to your heart's content during break and lunch. Leave room for any of your friends who aren't able to be with us. As long as you are sensible, rules around mobile phones will be relaxed so that you can take selfies.
- Hoodies will be arriving after Easter. We will let you know when they come in and you can pick them up from Reception at your convenience. If you are in isolation then they will still be there afterwards!

You are probably wondering what to do with all of the time you are now going to have. It will feel great to get through that Netflix boxset that you haven't quite managed to get to previously but, inevitably, the novelty will quickly wear thin. I strongly recommend that you get into the habit of reading (no, really, it's fantastic if you can make that a regular habit!) and also remember to do some sort of exercise. Think about what you're doing next year and get a head-start – do some research perhaps. Please also bear in mind that the national situation might change and that you might need to do some form of assessment, maybe at home. If this is the case, we will absolutely support you through this.

Finally, on a non-academic note, please do your best to be helpful at home. These are challenging times for everyone in your household. Be careful with social media – use it to keep in contact with your friends and don't get distracted by (or cause) any unnecessary problems. Everyone's mental health is important and this is the time for kindness above everything else.

We are all heartbroken about this situation. Seeing so many of you come in today made us all realise how proud we are of you. Your resilience and good humour in trying circumstances shone through. Far more important than any exam is the fact that you are decent and talented people with a really bright future ahead of you.

On behalf of all of the staff at Highworth Warneford School, we wish you all the very best.



Andy Steele
Headteacher