

Highworth Warneford School



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Dear Year 11 (with copies to Parents/Carers)

In ordinary circumstances, students around the country would currently be heading towards the end of their fourth week of GCSEs, with most looking forward to their last exam and the freedom of a really long summer break.

However, these are not ordinary circumstances and you have had a “unique” experience over the past few months that I hope will never have to be repeated. With any luck, you have all managed to find some positives in what has happened and are looking forward to the future.

Here are some updates that I hope you find useful.

Pastoral Contact

Given this would normally be the end of your formal time at Highworth Warneford School, we are not going to be making regular pastoral contact with you from now on. This does not mean that we don't want to hear from you or aren't available if you have a problem or concern. We just want to mirror the pattern of more typical years and don't want you to feel we are bothering you unnecessarily.

Post-16 Support

From our conversations with you and your parents, we know that the majority of you have got a post-16 plan already sorted and are just waiting for your results this summer.

Mrs Dine, who helps to run our careers support programme, has already been in contact with some of you to offer extra help with college applications etc. but we are aware that plans might change and more support might be needed.

If you need any further guidance with regards to post-16 destinations then please contact her by email: ldine@warnefordschool.org

Help will also be available both on and after results day in August. Speaking of which...

GCSE Results Day

As previously advised, this will be on Thursday 20th August. Although details have yet to be finalised, it is unlikely that we will be able to run this in a normal manner with hundreds of students and parents on the school site at the same time. It is more likely that we will release the results throughout the day. More details will follow.

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Collection of Personal Items, Hoodies and Certificates/Return of Resources

Although I think everyone understood that the Friday when schools first shut was going to be your last proper day at Warneford, I don't think anyone realised quite how long restrictions were going to last and that schools would not be reopening to any significant extent before the end of the academic year.

One of the consequences is that we have a large number of your personal items still in lockers and elsewhere, which have to be collected.

I know that many of you are also keen to get your hoodies and need to pick up certificates etc. that would normally form part of your Record of Achievement (useful for CVs and personal reflection!)

Therefore, during the week beginning Monday 29th June, you will be able to book a slot to come into school to collect these things, with a limit on how many of you can be on site at any one time. I will send you a link soon, with an explanation of how this will work.

We will also be using this opportunity to collect text books and other resources from you that would ordinarily have been taken in by your teachers at the end of exams. We will let you know exactly what is expected to be returned and how much replacement items are if they have been lost.

I would also ask for any contributions of uniform that is still in good condition. The PTA use this to raise much-needed funds and it is a way for some of our parents to buy decent uniform at a low price.

Awards Ceremony and Prom

These are two major events that would normally mark the end of your secondary education and give you a big send-off into the world.

Our current plans are to do something *virtual* for the Awards Ceremony, in the first instance at least.

As mentioned before, we still want to go ahead with the Prom but it will be at a much later date and depends entirely on how lockdown measures change and the availability of the venue. We really do not know when this will be and you just have to be patient. If you can't make the rearranged date, you will receive a full refund.

Volunteer Tutors

I would like to ask for your help with an idea that is not yet fully formed but could prove incredibly helpful for some of our younger students. Although home learning has been largely successful during lockdown, there are a number of students who have found it very difficult to keep on top of their work and have fallen behind their peers.

Although the government have floated the idea of running summer schools to help some of them to catch up, I am not holding my breath and was hoping to get your support to do something more proactive.

If you think you have the right temperament to support students who need some extra help and would be willing to volunteer some of your time towards the end of term and maybe over the summer break, please express your interest using this link: <https://bit.ly/3feTjFt>

Once I know the numbers willing to help out, I will try to put something together.

Duke of Edinburgh

Mr McKinstry has asked me to remind you that, even though the expedition was cancelled, you can still gain your award. When it is possible and safe to do so, you should carry on submitting your evidence and getting assessors to sign off the various sections. Your evidence can be gathered until you are 25 years' old and most post-16 providers will be set up to allow a continuation of what you've done to complete the award in future.

That's it for now. I am sure I will see some of you when you come in to collect/drop off things in a few weeks' time. If I don't catch you then, I will definitely be around during exam results day.

Please do keep in contact – why don't you pick your favourite teachers and send them an email to give them your latest news? You have been a great year group and we are very proud of what you have achieved during your time with us.

Best wishes as ever

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Steele".

Andy Steele
Headteacher