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**Headteacher:** Mrs Emma Anderson  
**Chair of Governors:** Mr Steve Chew

Our ref: NI/EB

12 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sure you will have many concerns around the arrangements for GCSE and BTEC examinations and how your child will be awarded grades this summer. I wanted to write and try to give some clarity around what has been announced so far and how this impacts your child's remote learning. I also wanted to reassure you that our primary objective is supporting our students and working with them to ensure they succeed at Newfield School and have a smooth transition into the next stage of their education.

#### Summer Outcomes

The Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, has recently confirmed that GCSE examinations will not go ahead as planned this summer and instead, a form of centre assessment grades will be used. We are still waiting for further details about what this means for our Year 11 students and we will share this with you as soon as we receive it. However, whatever system is developed for awarding grades this year, there will be a need to provide evidence. Unfortunately, due to the current lockdown, our Year 11 students will not be able to sit their mock examinations in January as originally planned. Last year, the mock examinations played a big part in providing evidence for centre assessed grades, therefore, when national restrictions are eased and Year 11 students return to school, it is likely that they will still need to sit some internal assessments. How this will operate will be communicated with you when we return to face to face teaching. I can assure you though, that there will be significant preparation time for these assessments, and teachers will be supporting students in the run-up to, and throughout, any assessments they will sit.

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## BTEC and Technical Awards

The advice with regards to upcoming vocational exams is that those scheduled in the January examination series are to go ahead as planned. Therefore, Year 11 students who are due to sit exams in January and February should continue to prepare for them as planned. We will contact those involved in due course with regards to arrangements for attending these exams as well as details around pre-exam revision sessions.

## Remote Learning

We are a knowledge based school and believe all knowledge is good knowledge. Learning the remaining content for GCSEs is essential as we prepare Year 11 for their Post-16 courses and as we continue through our academic year. Therefore, it is imperative that our Year 11 students continue with their studies and actively engage with the remote learning provided by their teachers. Students should be following their usual school timetable and checking Show My Homework and Microsoft Teams daily for instructions on what work to complete. This will be a mixture of live lessons, pre-recorded lessons and revision activities. It is important that students can access both Show My Homework and Microsoft Teams. Please refer to the guidance already sent around this. Teachers are working very hard to ensure the work provided for Year 11 is a continuation of the curriculum, so students should be completing all tasks set and attending live lessons where possible. Everything students are learning now will be assessed in the internal assessments which will take place on their return.

## Communication

Throughout this time of remote learning, there are several different ways students can contact their teachers to ask questions or submit work. The quickest way would be to send their subject teachers a message on Microsoft Teams or Show My Homework during their normal lesson times, as teachers will be available to respond. Students can also use their school email account to contact staff. Subject specific queries should be sent directly to their class teachers and any other concerns should be directed to myself - [nillingworth@newfield.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:nillingworth@newfield.sheffield.sch.uk) or Head of Y11, Miss Langley - [slangle@newfield.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:slangle@newfield.sheffield.sch.uk)

## Sheffield Progress Post-16 Applications

Whilst studying at home, it is important that Year 11 students also complete their Sheffield Progress applications and send them off to the providers in order to secure a Post-16 study place. Ideally, students should apply to a minimum of 2 providers and they must be sent by the end of January. Failure to meet this deadline may result in not receiving a place on their desired course. If your child needs any support with their applications, or their login details resetting, please contact myself or email [careers@newfield.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:careers@newfield.sheffield.sch.uk)

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Please take comfort that despite the circumstances we have faced previously, and are now facing again, we know our students very well and are committed to supporting them throughout these challenging times. We will continue to respond to and act upon the ever-changing advice and guidance from the government and as soon as we know more about the arrangements for the summer outcomes, we will be in contact with you.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and patience. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need any further support.

Yours faithfully



**Miss N Illingworth**  
**Head of Upper School**