

20<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Year 11

Life at Budmouth has changed very rapidly recently and events have been somewhat unsettling. You might be feeling a bit confused about what's happening and that's completely understandable. So I wanted to write to you to let you know that we are all thinking of you. We really feel for you and we understand that now, very suddenly, you are faced with the possibility of your time in Year 11 ending much sooner than you expected.

Over the last few days, some of you have asked for shirt signing and selfies with teachers. These are of course normal exciting things you would normally do at the end of year 11 but things are not normal at the moment.

We wanted to write to you to try and reassure you. We are not sure when, but we will have a shirt signing and teacher selfie session at some point soon. We will also have a Prom and a Graduation Assembly. We will invite your mums, dads and carers to wave you off and will make speeches about you, and make fun of you, using photos of you grinning when you were in year 7! As Mr Herbert said today, although it may be different we want to make these things even more special.

The original plans were for the Graduation Assembly to be at 9.15am for a 9.30am start on Wednesday 1st July in Clare Hall and for the Prom to take place at Weymouth and Portland sailing Academy on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020. Now of course the plans are fluid and subject to change, but we will keep you posted with any changes.

Hoodies will still be able to be purchased. However, this will also be at a later date and we will keep you informed of further information regarding this.

Please, try not to worry. All the good things about finishing your year 11 will happen, and you will have that big send-off that you so hugely deserve! Please don't give up on working hard over the next few weeks.

We have all heard about the government's plans for exams but, as yet, we don't know exactly how they will be replaced. Until we have final and definite information it is important that you access Google Classroom and complete the work that teachers have set for you. They want you to complete it and have worked hard to set it for you, so please do. Please also retain and keep together all of your books, school work, exam papers, coursework etc. as evidence of your learning and progress should it be needed. We will contact you if we need to collect this in.

Please, keep working, keep revising and stay focused on those subjects you have worked so hard in over the last few months. Don't give up now whatever happens! Learning is a habit. Do not lose it!

At some point in the future we may change approach and start to look at work that would be more helpful for your courses for September 2020, rather than your GCSE work. If we are able to come back into school later in the summer, Mr Henman is keen to look at how we can start to deliver 6<sup>th</sup> Form learning to get a head start.

We hope to see you soon. Take care of yourselves. Take care of each other and follow the advice given. Stay in touch with us using Google Classrooms or email staff directly. Ask us questions and we will try to get you the answers.

We are thinking of you and you have our respect for your commitment and your resilience.

In the interest of avoiding the kind of 'mass gathering' that has caused this school closure we should advise that attendance at any unofficial end of term 'party' would be against official health advice.

Stay healthy and stay focused on your future success.

All best wishes

Mr Bartlett and the Year 11 Team.