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BISHOPSHALT SCHOOL

"Above all else a place for learning"

5th January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers

Following on from yesterday evening's communication to you, I am writing to advise you that during this morning's assemblies to Year 11, 12 and 13 we spoke to them regarding what we are current aware of for the arrangements for the Public exams which were scheduled to take place this year, as we understand.

We have stressed to all students, the importance of continuing to fully engage with their studies, maintaining their effort levels and commitment, as although we have not yet been informed of how the final grades will be brought too, we have no doubt that it will be made up of a combination of assessment, effort levels and teacher predictions in some form. Therefore, we cannot stress how important it is to all students to remain motivated even in these times of uncertainty.

We would like to reassure you that the public vocational exams and assessments scheduled to take place in January will go ahead as planned. Although there is some uncertainty, the London Borough of Hillingdon have informed us that, GCSEs and A-Levels exams will not take place, however we will advise you further once this has been fully clarified.

The Secretary of State for Education will be asking Ofqual to consult rapidly on an approach for alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly.

Regardless, of whether we have formal examinations or not, students will be given grades at the end of the year. Therefore we will be continuing with our full curriculum for our examination year students, and will provide them with opportunities to demonstrate their understanding.

Please note that:

- Year 12 Mocks/Trial exams will continue, starting from the **18th January**. These will be virtual and more information will follow.
- We will build in a virtual 'exam week' for Year 11 and 13 during this half term, again more information will follow.
- When the students return, and if safe to do so, we will conduct a full round of Trial Examinations.

We will continue to update you with information and arrangements as and when it becomes available, and we ask that you encourage your children to fully commit to the studies as it is as important now as it would be if the exams were to take place, if not more so.

As always, I thank you for your continued support during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

L McGillicuddy (Mr)
Headteacher



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