



KING HENRY VIII SCHOOL
YSGOL BRENIN HARRI'R VIII

Headteacher/Prifathrawes: Mrs E. Lewis BA (Hons) MA Ed

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19 March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Year 13

I am sure many of you are aware the Welsh Minister for Education Kirsty Williams made clear yesterday there would be no examination series this summer for year 13. Learners will be awarded a fair grade to recognise their work, drawing on the range of information that is available. As a school, we are well placed to provide that range of evidence. We shall work rigorously with the examination boards to make sure we do the best for every learner at KHS. As far as we are aware results will be published in August as in previous years.

I have spoken to as many year 13 students this morning as possible and reassured them that we shall work hard on their behalf to ensure they are rewarded fairly this summer. I also want to make you aware of how proud we are of year 13. It is a great shame that we will be denied the chance to have a Leavers' Assembly or meal this year, and that their time at KHS will be cut short so abruptly.

There are still some questions we do not know the answers to, such as will BTEC students be expected to finish all the units of study for their course, which was scheduled to run until the end of June? At present, our advice to BTEC students is to continue working on units at home, sticking to the deadlines given by staff. Seek guidance from teachers electronically and submit work as guided by the teacher. If subsequently there is a decision to award BTEC Subsidiary Diplomas without finishing all units, we will let you know.

The Skills Challenge is also continually assessed, and most students have nearly finished their final piece of work, the Individual Project. Students should finish this over the next two weeks, and email it to their teacher, in order that the teacher can claim a fair grade for them for the Skills Challenge.

Students will remember the gap between finishing their GCSE exams in June and starting their year 12 courses in September. Many students know that they forgot quite a lot in two months of doing no academic work, and we need to guard against this being an even bigger issue for those going on to Higher Education. We will use the expertise of our staff to suggest academic work activities that students can undertake and will support them in doing this wherever possible. We also encourage those going on to Higher Education to contact their first choice university, and ask them for a suitable reading list. We would strongly suggest that students do regular academic work throughout May, June and July, and suspect that some of our students with outstanding attitudes to study could place themselves in a very strong position by the time they take up their university places, having practised just the sort of independent learning skills that they will need to excel at university.

In line with Welsh Government guidance, we shall close on Friday 20th March until further notice due to the COVID – 19 outbreak. There is no definitive answer as to when we shall re-open. Our intention is to run a virtual school so we can continue to have strong lines of communication with yourselves and maintain e learning provision in these challenging times.

Our e communication channels shall be as follows:

- In Touch email system
- SIMS Parent App
- Twitter [KHSAbergavenny@KingHenrySchool](https://twitter.com/KHSAbergavenny@KingHenrySchool)
- School website: www.kinghenryviiiischool.co.uk

Any e communications will also be placed on the school website and shared via Twitter so if any one e communication method is not working you are able to keep up to date with our news.

In addition we can be contacted through our school reception phone number 01873 735374. This number will be manned remotely during office hours. Please bear with us whilst we respond as our ability may be slower than usual but we shall try our best.

We have already communicated our plans for e learning and all resources and materials can be found on the school website. This e learning plan will be updated as additional classes and codes are added. All students have been given their Hwb usernames and passwords and an email with your child's information should be with before the end of school Friday. This level of e learning is new to us and it may take some time for this to bed in. Our aim is to allow all out students to continue to engage in their learning and also undertake wider reading so they continue to make progress. If there are issues please contact reception or make us aware via the info@khs.schoolsdu.org.uk. Again, we shall do our best to resolve these matters. We shall be setting work for the next two weeks prior to our original Easter Break of Friday April 3rd.

The Welsh Government have informed schools they will have 'a new purpose' to help support those most in need "including people involved in the immediate response to the coronavirus outbreak". Welsh government is currently working with the Local Authority to develop and finalise plans. We are unclear at present what the commitment of our school and KHS staff will be. The redirection of work could impact on the ability of some teachers to set regular work.

As a school, our aim is to make sure all students, their families and staff remain safe and well during this difficult time. Please be reassured we shall maintain a steady stream of communication with yourselves and pass on any relevant information promptly.

Yours sincerely

E Lewis

M Stockham

Mrs E Lewis
Executive Headteacher

Mr M Stockham
Head of School