



St. Julie's Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mr. T. Alderman

"Serve the good God well with much liberty of spirit"

12 May 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to advise you about the arrangements for Yr11 and Yr13 students over the coming weeks. Currently, your daughters and sons are midway through their formal assessments which will contribute to their GCSE and A Level Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs).

All formal assessments are due to be completed by Tuesday 18 May, however, we may need to add in additional assessments for students who have missed exams for various reasons. As such, it is important that your daughter or son continues to attend over the next 2 weeks, even if formal assessments are completed. However, upon completion of formal assessments there starts the enormous task of marking all assessments, adding these to the previously compiled evidence base, moderation and quality assurance of marking and CAGs and the need to input all this data into the exam portal for the different exam boards, before 18 June. Most of this work is normally done by the exam boards so the additional workload has to be factored into the normal running of the school, so students in Yr11 and Yr13 will finish their formal education in school at half term, with remote learning opportunities for Yr11 after half term.

All Yr13 students will finish their formal education on Friday 28 May, which is a half day for Yr7-10 and Yr12 students, to allow all staff and Yr13 students to attend the Yr13 Leavers Service at 1.30pm.

From Monday 7 June Yr13 students will have access to their teachers if they need it, for any support such as their UCAS offers, transition to working life, pastoral or well-being support. Students should contact members staff by email in the first instance, such that the member of staff can respond when they have finished teaching.

All Yr11 students will finish their formal face to face education in school at 3.15pm on Thursday 27 May, to allow preparations to take place on Friday 28 May in setting up for the Yr13 Leavers Service. The morning will also be used by teaching staff to moderate and quality assure the marking of the Yr11 formal assessments, so that we can be sure that all staff have marked to the same standard.

From **Monday 7 June Yr11 students** will be given 2 remote learning assignments per day. These will focus on a range of matters including transition to next steps in 6 Form, study skills for post-16 learning, staying safe, budgets & finance, preparing for working life, careers, University and subject based taster sessions. Providing these sessions for your daughters will allow us to continue to check in with them each day, so it is not only important that all students engage with these sessions in their own right, but also so we can be aware of how students are managing and preparing for their next steps. More details on these sessions will be sent nearer the time.

These sessions will run up until the **Yr11 Celebration Event on Thursday 24 June**. We will be inviting students to this event in school to recognise their achievements to date and celebrate the completion of their GCSE studies. This is a formal occasion, requiring full school uniform. Students are issued with additional robes and group photographs are taken.



The dangers of the COVID-19 pandemic are not over and we will continue to keep students as safe as possible in school. The last year has been incredibly disruptive and we have made many changes to the way the school operates. However, after half term, only having Yr7 to 10 and Yr12 present will facilitate the **move back to subject based areas**, where teachers remain in their own classroom and students move around the school. Currently, students are based in an area and the teachers move to them. Teachers in school have worked very hard all year and have been moving classrooms nearly every lesson, since September. That places an additional physical burden on staff who have had to carry all their own resources and books around with them, as well as their personal keyboard and mouse to reduce cross infection. I am sure my staff will not mind me pointing out that they are not as young and spritely as the students themselves, so they are very relieved to be moving back to having their own classrooms. Having Yr11 and Yr13 remaining at home after half term will ensure we can do this as safely as possible with fewer students on site, as well as freeing up staff time to support the Centre Assessed Grade process.

Finally, can I thank you as Parents and Carers for all the support you have given to your own children over the last 12 months, especially during the lockdown periods. Many of you will have struggled with remote learning, illness, working from home and supporting your children's education, whilst also remaining hopeful that all will be well in the end and a better future is ahead of us. We look forward to celebrating your children's achievements on results day in August:

10 August 2021 – A Level results day

12 August 2021 – GCSE results day

Best wishes,



Tim Alderman

Headteacher