

6th November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Year 11 Progress Evening

Please find attached along with this letter your child's progress report for this term. In this letter we have highlighted some important information about this academic year, including some of the impacts COVID-19 has had on examinations.

We would like to remind you that the progress evening will be taking place on Thursday 12th November. It is highly important that you attend this progress evening in order to get a full understanding of your child's progress at this critical time in their education, it will also be a good opportunity to discuss your child's report. Progress evening will be taking place virtually this year, through the Parents Evening Booking System video appointment function. If you require support logging into the system, please refer to the letter sent on Friday 30th October. You can also get in touch with enquiries@corbytechnicalschool.org if you require further support.

Online platforms

We encourage students and parents/carers to use Show My homework in order to help students organise their time. If you have misplaced your parent/login for this system please contact school using our enquiries e-mail address. Through the Satchel One App (Show My Homework), there is also a timetable function where you can view what lessons your child is in throughout the week. Students are also using an excellent online platform called GCSE PoD to revise for subjects, in addition there is a freely available website called Seneca learning that contains excellent resources for students.

<http://www.senecalearning.com/>

<https://www.gcsepod.com/>

If for any reason your child is not able to come into school due to self-isolation or any other reason all school work will be set on Microsoft Teams. If your child has any issues accessing work during this time please contact the Head of Year 11, Miss Arshad at sarshad@corbytechnicalschool.org.

Changes to Exam Arrangements

The government have recently announced that exams are still scheduled to take place as normal this academic year. However, most exams will be delayed by approximately 3 weeks in order to give students more time to prepare.

The Department for Education are currently engaged in work to identify any risks to exams at a national, local, and individual student level, and consider measures needed to address any potential disruption. This could be a student unable to sit exams due to illness or self-isolation, or schools affected by a local outbreak during the examination season meaning centres cannot open. More detail is expected this autumn and we will make you aware as soon as the DfE notify us of any plans.

It has been confirmed that one Maths and one English GCSE exam will be held just before the traditional May half-term (w/b 31st May 2020), giving any year 11 pupils who are affected by COVID-19 the best possible chance of still sitting a paper in each of these core subjects.

GCSE results day will now be Friday 27th August. Your child will therefore receive their results before the next academic year starts and will be able to continue their studies as normal, wherever they choose to study.

Changes to Exam Specifications

Earlier this year, the government and Ofqual announced a number of changes to exam specifications. These changes were made to limit the effects of lost learning time for students sitting their exams in 2021. You can see the changes made to GCSE qualifications on [this document](#) from the Ofqual website (Page 14-18).

Upcoming in school assessments

Students will be sitting a number of formal assessments throughout this academic year in order to best prepare them for their summer examinations. It is really important that students revise for these assessments to ensure they are working at their best. We will be trialling a new messaging service where we hope to be able to inform you as parents/carers the week before an assessment is due to be taken. We ask that parents and carers encourage their children to revise and prepare for these assessments. Where students are fully prepared for formal assessments, teachers are given the best opportunity to recognise where subject weaknesses exist and will therefore be able to support each child more effectively.

Upcoming Year 11 Reports

You can expect progress reports on the following dates:

- Friday 8th January 2021
- Friday 19th March 2021

If you have any questions please contact Miss Arshad, Head of Year 11 at sarshad@corbytechnicalschool.org.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs A Reynolds
Principal