



Rawmarsh Community School



Executive Headteacher: Helen O'Brien BSc. Hons.
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HOB/MTN/JRO

3rd December 2020

Dear Parent

I am writing in response to recent national media coverage of the measures being taken by the government to mitigate the greatest challenge to education and the progress of children in recent years; the loss of learning and teaching as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

You may have read the government's announcement about the package of measures to address the loss of learning and teaching this year, and the contingency plans for summer 2021 exams. I wanted to share these with you and how these measures will affect our children across Wickersley Partnership Trust.

The measures and how they will impact on our students include:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes for 2020 which will ensure our students are not disadvantaged
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A-levels to ensure our students and teachers can focus and prioritise revision
- exam aids – like formula sheets – provided in some exams which will give our students more confidence and reduce the amount of information they need to memorise
- contingency exams – held shortly after the main exam series – so our students can sit a paper if they miss all their assessments in a subject because of illness or self-isolation.
- a new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic across the country which will hopefully take into account the significant impact of COVID-19 on our school settings

The new measures will complement the existing changes for next summer which include:

- reduced content in many subjects
- a delay to the start of exams and changes to the timetable.

There will also be adaptations to vocational and technical qualifications to make sure there's parity with general qualifications.

We are all, staff, parents and students eagerly anticipating the specific details relating to the measures announced today and we hope to be in a position to update you in the New Year. This update will hopefully provide the detail to the broad strokes outlined above and update parents and students on how they will affect us at Wickersley Partnership Trust.

We are pleased that the government has announced the creation of an expert group to look at the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country. This will prove crucial to ensure there is a level playing field for each and every student sitting their GCSEs this summer.

Thank you as always for your unconditional support as we continue to do our utmost to send all our students out into an ever changing world ready, able and qualified to play their part in it.

My very best wishes to all our families across Wickersley Partnership Trust as we enter the festive season.

Yours sincerely

Helen O'Brien
CEO of Wickersley Partnership Trust

Matthew Turton
Headteacher