



# SOUTHBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

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5th January 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

## **Prime Minister's announcement on schools**

I am writing to you following the Prime Minister's announcement on schools yesterday evening.

Having reflected overnight, I remain dismayed by the way in which schools have been subject to repeated arbitrary instructions, leading to a bewildering array of urgent requirements. Nevertheless, I believe that "Difficulties show what people are" (Epictetus) and am determined to do my utmost to **support our students and their parents and carers** through the coming weeks and, indeed, months. In particular, this means:

- 1) All students identified as Vulnerable (which includes those identified as having difficulty engaging with Remote Learning) or Key Worker Children, will continue to attend school as normal. This means that they should attend school, in uniform, as normal.
- 2) We have improved our Remote and Blended Learning capability immensely since March: we will do our best to teach all of our students the best we can. This means that all Remote Learners should log on and engage with their learning.
- 3) Any student or parent who would like support should, in the first instance, contact their Head of Year. We will do our best to support you.

I am also keen to provide some clarity regarding forthcoming internal and public **examinations**. In brief:

- a) The Department for Education have decided that this Summer's public examinations (i.e. GCSE and A Level) will not "all" take place. We have been informed that BTEC examinations will take place as planned. Year 11 and 13 students will receive further detail when we receive it from the Department for Education;
- b) Internal Exams for Year 11 and 13, which were scheduled to take place from 11th January have been postponed. These examinations will most certainly take place at some point, however, as the grades and marks they generate will probably be used to calculate any Centre Assessed Grades. Internal Exams for Year 9 and 12, which were scheduled to take place from 18th January, have also been postponed.

In terms of the planned "**Mass Testing**" for Covid-19, we will continue to make preparations, as we await further direction from the Department for Education and Public Health England.

I anticipate that we are all feeling, perhaps, a little bewildered by the pace of events and, possibly, a little dissatisfied with how matters are being managed. Notwithstanding this, we are a resilient school and we will endure these difficult times and emerge even stronger.



Niall Smith  
Headteacher

