



25 March 2020

Parents/Carers of Year 11 and Year 13 students,

We share your child's immense disappointment with how the year has ended for Year 11 and Year 13. However, I would like to reassure you that we will, at some point, celebrate their leaving in style. They deserve a good send off and we will ensure we give them that at the earliest opportunity. The government has said that students will not be required to take examinations. This has not changed. Schools have not received any separate guidance other than the information which is in the public domain.

However, my advice is that both year groups should prepare for the worst educational scenario as we currently understand it. It will be the examination boards that grant results – not the school.

Individual teachers must not, therefore, be approached to ask 'What grade are you giving me?' The qualification decision will be made by the examination boards based on their own formula, only part of which is informed by school predictions and or Teacher assessment. General opinion is that a crude external system runs the risk of suppressing the good levels of progress we anticipated this year. In this scenario, many students may want or need to take an examination in the Autumn term to show grades which are more representative of individual competence. My advice, therefore, is that students should continue to approach revision with Autumn exams in the forefront of their minds.

For further information please see : <https://www.aqa.org.uk/coronavirus-updates>

Practically, I'd suggest two phases in the approach to revision:

Phase 1: Maintenance and Consolidation

At the very least, between now and the examination board results in July (date to be announced), students must stay familiar with the content of each subject – especially those which are most needed for their next destination. Past paper questions to check 'information recall' should be considered too. As a minimum, students should feel confident at sampling exam questions under exam conditions.

After the July results, (dates not yet known) there could be a period of 4 – 6 weeks when results are known and exams can be identified if more representative grades are desired or required.

Phase 2: 'Laser-Focused' Revision

Building upon Phase 1, this 4-6 week period should involve targeted and intensive revision in the specific subjects that students wish to improve.

It is guaranteed that students will not achieve as well in September examinations if they have not made good use of the maintenance and consolidation period.

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

The Bourne Academy, Hadow Road, Bournemouth, BH10 5HS | Tel. 01202 528554 | admin@thebourneacademy.com

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I appreciate just how stressful the precariousness of this situation is. Obviously, our hope is that every student will achieve very positive results which are both individually representative and provide the perfect platform for the next stage of their academic careers. With regard to Year 11's onward progression to The Bourne Academy Sixth Form, I would like to reassure you that, whilst the results are important, we will look at the individual that we know very well and offer them an onward course appropriate to them. Year 13 will be equally supported by the Sixth Form team and Universities. However, in both cases, it is likely that the first term of onward study will end in an examination of some sort to ascertain whether students can cope with the pressures of the course they are on.

Please stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all soon

Kind regards

Mr M Avoth
Principal

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www.thebourneacademy.com admin@thebourneacademy.com

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