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Executive Director of Children and Young People



Our Ref JK/PAs
Your Ref
Date 23 February 2021
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Department for Children and
Young People

Julien Kramer
Interim Assistant Director
(Education and Inclusion)

Year 11 Pupils
Bury Schools

COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear Year 11 Pupil

I am writing to update you in relation to the impact of COVID-19 on your studies. As a year group you experienced disruption to your learning in Year 10 and again in Year 11. We are so very proud of the way you have handled such exceptional circumstances.

Thank you for engaging with the remote learning offer provided by your school since the January national lockdown. The vast majority of you will be accessing the remote learning offer at home and Bury schools report high levels of engagement.

It is vital that you continue your studies for a number of reasons including so that you are awarded grades this summer that reflect the abilities you have demonstrated over the course of your study.

Following the cancellation of examinations announced in January 2021, Ofqual (the regulatory body for qualifications) and the Department for Education consulted on how grades should be awarded this summer. It is proposed that grades awarded will be based on your teachers' assessment of the standard at which you are performing. We await the outcome of the consultation to be able to share with you the process that has been decided. What we do know is that your on-going hard work will count.

The grades you will be awarded this year will have the same value as in previous years and you will be able to be proud of your achievements. Whether your plans for next autumn are to progress into post-16 education, employment or training your work now matters. Our local college leaders say that the best preparation for post-16 study is to continue with your broad range of subjects. The message is clear - *Keep Going!*

For those of you looking to attend college, Bury College and Holy Cross Sixth Form College are already planning transition arrangement support for their future students. Bury College has stated that any pupil applying from a Bury school will be guaranteed a place in September 2021 should they wish to accept it – there is a [brochure](#) outlining the virtual events available to your year group, as well as a wide range of [transition resources](#) on the Bury College website. Holy Cross Sixth Form College is currently completing its admissions process for September 2021 and those of you who accept a place will be able to access support materials via your application portal. Please do not worry, your school and chosen college will work together to support you.

Information about pathways including apprenticeships and employment can be found on the [Bury Career Event website](#). If you need any further careers advice or guidance about your post-16 plans, please speak to your head of year who can arrange an appointment with your careers adviser. If you need further support, please contact Connexions on 0161 253 7733 or email connexions@bury.gov.uk.

It is important that you continue to engage with remote learning over the next two weeks. Whether your plan is to enter college or the world of work your attitude to learning and your ability to persevere are key skills.

You are important to us and we want the best for you. We know that your school's teachers, support staff and senior leaders will do everything they can to help you to maximise your achievements this summer and to progress.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 22 February 2021 your school is now planning for the return of all pupils from 8 March 2021 so that your teachers can work with you face to face. This is what we all want.

Please look after yourselves, stay safe and keep going!

Yours sincerely



Julien Kramer
Interim Assistant Director, Education and Inclusion
Children and Young People

Electronic or fax service of Legal documents is not accepted

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