



Beaumont School

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are well. I am writing to let you know about our plans for the upcoming Year 12 Threshold Exams, which would normally have taken place from 1st June 2020. We appreciate that students will be worried about them and we want them to know what to expect and prepare for. As you know, the national situation is very uncertain at the moment and we do not know when schools will start to reopen, therefore we cannot say at this stage whether students will still be at home immediately after half term. If students are back in school by this point (and I must stress that we have no information to make us think they will be), we do not want to welcome them back by going straight into exams. We want to prioritise time in lessons with their teachers first and foremost, after so much face-to-face learning has been missed. Therefore the Threshold Exams will not take place during the scheduled two weeks straight after half term.

However, we do think formal assessments are still important, because they will provide students with exam practice, enable teachers to judge how well students have grasped what they need to learn, and help teachers to plan future lessons to address any gaps and misconceptions. Therefore we will be holding a set of exams for Year 12 in the week beginning 22nd June. If students are back in school, these will be done in the traditional way. If not, they will be set online for completion under your supervision at home. Since students' learning will have been affected by the weeks of lockdown and since we will not be able to guarantee standardised conditions if exams are sat at home, we will not be using them as the sole determining factor of each student's estimated grades for UCAS, as we normally do. A decision has yet to be made about exactly how we will arrive at the UCAS estimates, but we will endeavour to do so as fairly as possible.

We will be in touch again with more information about how many exams will take place and the arrangements for sitting them when we know more about the government's strategy for exit from lockdown. Thank you for your understanding in the meantime and I am sorry we cannot give you more definite information at this stage.

Kind regards,

Mr J Mountstevens
Deputy Headteacher

