

# LeAF Studio

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**Principal:** Mrs N Lapskas



6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I am sure you can appreciate, it has been a very challenging start to the term for both staff and students. We have been working incredibly hard in very difficult circumstances to process the ever-changing announcements from the government, including the latest one today from the Education Secretary. I wanted to write to parents of all students facing exams this year to clarify the situation as we understand it at the moment.

## **GCSEs and A Levels**

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday regarding the cancellation of GCSE and A Level exams, we were waiting for further news on what system would be used to replace these. Gavin Williamson announced this afternoon that we will be using teacher grades to assess students at the end of each key stage. This will be based on teacher assessment that has been through a process of moderation, although exact details of how this will work have yet to be released. The government have stated that they will provide further training for us around this so once we have a clearer idea of how it will work I will share this with parents.

All Year 11 and 13 students completed the first half of their mocks before Christmas and were due to take the rest in February, so we do already have some data available to us to help with this. Until we have further clarity about exactly how these teacher assessments will work, we are proposing to continue with the second half of the mocks after students have returned to school. Dates for these will be confirmed once we know when students are back on site. These exams will give us the clearest idea of their current progress and allow us to provide the most accurate teacher assessments for their GCSE or A Level qualifications. As such, students need to continue working towards these second set of mocks by engaging in live lessons and submitting work as required. This will clearly be critical in allowing us to give accurate teacher assessed grades for each student.

Of course, this may all change once again but for now we feel it is the clearest message we can send to both students and parents. We appreciate just how difficult this must be for our young people but we will be doing everything we can to ensure they achieve the grades they deserve in the summer. We will also be providing ongoing careers support for all our students, further details of which will be sent out in due course.

## **Yr 13 BTEC exams**

Whilst there have been discussions about GCSE and A-Levels, there has been very little said about BTECs at the moment. As such, we are continuing with the planned January exams for Sport and Performing Arts as we do not want to disadvantage our students by pulling them out at such a late stage. We held our first exam this morning and it was a positive experience for all the students taking part.

All students are tested as soon as they arrive on site and are only allowed to participate in the exam with a negative test. If you have not already completed the online form giving your consent for testing then please do so **as soon as possible** for the safety of all our staff and students on site. Staff have already been tested this week and all are negative so we are as Covid secure as we can be. We can arrange transport for any students not able to get to school or not wanting to use public transport – please just email me at

[tclark@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk](mailto:tclark@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk) to arrange this if needed. Mr Evans and Mr Lake have already sent out plans for each exam day by email and on social media so please refer to these for further details.

Again, once further information is released about how BTECs will ultimately be assessed in the summer, I will be in touch to update you.

I appreciate that all of these constant changes must be very unsettling for both students and parents – all we can do is ensure that we are doing the very best for all of our students and this is what we will continue to do. If you do have any specific questions, please do not hesitate to contact either your child's Head of Year or email me directly using the address above.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "T. Clark". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "T".

Mr T Clark

**Vice Principal**