



WESTON FAVELL ACADEMY

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Dear Students

I am acutely aware that you have all been managing very individual demands and challenges since we closed at the end of March. Since then, there have been endless accounts and conversations which have made us all really proud of you. Well done for navigating these really extraordinary times and I hope that your family and friends have also stayed well.

We are now in Term 6, which would have seen Year 13 courses start, experience of work, UCAS preparations, leadership elections and so much more. Although we cannot replicate that experience exactly, we have much that we will achieve, both together and individually.

I know that you are now more than ready to move into your final Sixth Form phase and so here is what I can share with you:

- You are all settled into your final course options and so your timetables and Teams' Groups now reflect those decisions.
- You have engaged with on-line learning to an exceptional degree and so the intention is to continue to deliver teaching and learning on-line, as long as we can keep up the high quality of delivery, your on-line attendance and full engagement. I want to thank you, and all of our Sixth Form staff, for the learning partnerships which have evolved with determination and good humour. We confirm that there is no intention for lessons to be on site.
- Building on that success, in Term 6, all of your teachers will now be adding in 'face-to-face' sessions with you via Teams, with full roll-out of 'face-to-face' in place from June 15. However, you can be assured those sessions will be conducted under the strict GAT protocols, with teachers visible, but you being visible only by choice.
- This is a great step forward and so to facilitate this, your lessons on-line will now follow your daily timetable: an obvious pragmatic solution. Although returning to full timetable may be another point of re-adjustment for some, I know that you are all serious about your futures and we are excited to be able to give you the best possible support to achieve success.
- Your responsibility now, as a Sixth Former, simply remains as it always has been: to be in 'on-line class' promptly, to engage and to complete the set work as requested. Your teachers and Form Tutors will continue to support you in those expectations. Equally, your teacher will inform you if there is a change to your timetabled on-line lesson. That is why it is crucial that you log onto Teams daily.
- If there are occasional difficulties in attending your lesson, due perhaps to your individual family circumstances, please let your teacher, Mrs Whelan and I know. We continue to be here to support you in all respects.
- However, it is important that we all understand that in order to have really effective Term 6 learning, and for you to be a successful Sixth Former, any other activities should not routinely take place during your timetabled lessons. Of course, you will understand that this includes any paid part-time work.

Your personal development and preparation for post-18 decision making is an exciting and vital part of Term 6. Many of you have already taken part in the numerous on-line guidance and information sessions offered. The video links remain in Teams and I would urge you to continue to access those, as excellent guidance has been delivered.

In addition, we will still be able to work on-line together, both in your Form groups and with me directly, on a range of activities including UCAS applications, developing CVs while also encouraging research into MOOCs and internships. However, you will be notified of these special sessions, well in advance and a Term 6 calendar of our own on-line sessions will be collated for you. You will also be arranging to participate in on-line university Open Days in Term 6: many are starting immediately so search on UCAS <https://www.ucas.com/ucas/events/find?keywords=virtual%20events> as you may have to book a 'place'.

It is obvious that personal organisation really is especially important in these ever-changing times; it is also a life-long skill which will serve you well for years to come. We will also find new ways to work together on important opportunities for you to continue to shape Sixth Form, including a way of adapting our application processes for key Sixth Form Leadership positions.

It is important that you continue to develop those special relationships with your teachers and Form Tutors, which mark out your final year of schooling. This term, both your subject teachers and your Form Tutors are writing their comments which will be incorporated in your individual reference for UCAS and other post-18 options. Individual discussions will form part of that process.

I am sure that you will feel some relief that there is a clear, familiar plan which we are now embarking on. Inevitably you will have questions and, perhaps, concerns. In the first instance, please communicate those to your Form Tutors, who are very much there to support you.

Thank you for the enormous patience you have shown since March 23. However, we have also taken delight in seeing the great strengths which you are bringing to your Sixth Form. Finally, each and every one of you is a valued member of our Sixth Form community: it continues to be critical that you keep safe and well and always exercise good judgement.

Kind regards and best wishes,



Mrs Mann

Head of Sixth Form