



Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form



Executive Headteacher and CEO of NEMAT: Rob James

29 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers of Students in Year 13

Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. The messages many parents and carers have sent in have really made a difference and boosted staff morale. We know the Prime Minister's recent announcement, stating that schools will not open until at least Monday 8 March, is disappointing for many students and their families. We want to see the students back in the sixth form as soon as possible, as we realise learning from home can never replicate being in school with staff, peers and friends.

During the next few weeks, it will be important for all of us to work together to support not only the students' education but their emotional, social and physical wellbeing. The regular welfare checks, attendance at lessons, assemblies and tutorials, and participation in the enrichment activities will all contribute to a sense of 'normality'.

We know the uncertainty about the A Level and vocational examinations in the summer is causing concern. As you know, the Government are conducting a consultation to gather views on the proposals for how the grades will be awarded, which finishes this week. At the moment, we have the same questions as you. What will the assessment involve? When will the grades need to be submitted? What will be examined? We hope that we will know the answers to these questions within a few weeks.

What we do know is that the students still need to stay focussed and motivated to achieve good grades. Teachers will need to gather evidence from various pieces of work to support the estimation of a grade as students will not be taking external examinations. We do not yet know what evidence is required until the Government consultation has concluded. We will update you about what will happen as soon as we know more.

We are aware that some students are putting themselves under tremendous pressure and we are worried that this may be having a negative impact on some of them. The best thing that they can do is to continue attending and engaging in all lessons and completing the work set. Students should not worry that every piece of work will count towards the final grade. We improve by making mistakes and they need to continue to take risks in their learning as this is how they will make progress. Once we have had the guidance from the Government, we will make sure that the evidence used will give them the best chances of achieving good grades. So, they still have time to make a difference to their final grades, complete their courses and make sure they are well-prepared for the next steps after sixth form. This includes support from tutors, revision help, and advice and guidance on careers and applications as well as various assessments. We will be planning for opportunities which will allow students to show us what they know, and which mean we can submit accurate grades that reflect their attainment.

"Working together, achieving together"

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form, Notley Road, Braintree, Essex CM7 1WY

☎ 01376 556300 ☎ 01376 550991 ✉ enquiries@notleyhigh.com 🌐 www.notleyhigh.com

Notley High School & Braintree Sixth Form is an academy within the North Essex Multi-Academy Trust and a company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (company number 7687474). Registered office as above.





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We are always trying to improve the remote lessons and the engagement of students. Please encourage your child to be brave and use their microphone when asked and not just communicate via chat. Hopefully this will make the lessons as productive as possible. We are pleased with the very high levels of lesson attendance but there are still a very small number of students whose attendance could be better. If your child has failed to attend their online lessons, they and you will be contacted. This is necessary as it is part of our risk assessment process to safeguard students. If your child is unwell then please can you or they contact Mrs Watson via email.

Safeguarding continues to be a high priority. As a school we are required to retain our statutory duties to safeguard students and we have adapted our processes. As detailed in the Child Protection Policy, if we are unable to make contact with students then parents/carers will be contacted by email or telephone. Please ensure you respond as quickly as possible. You can view the policy through the school website.

Finally, as announced this week, all schools will be closed over the February half-term, so there will be no provision to supervise key workers' children.

If you have any issues with remote lessons, please contact the class teacher. If you are having technical problems accessing remote learning, please email ITsupport@notleyhigh.com. For any other urgent issues, please send your concerns to enquiries@notleyhigh.com. We will contact you as soon as possible.

Once again thank you for your ongoing support.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Mr R James
CEO/Executive Headteacher

Mrs M Townsend
Assistant Headteacher – KS5/Head of Sixth Form

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