



BOURNE GRAMMAR SCHOOL BULLETIN

Week ending Friday 17 April 2020

From Jonathan Maddox, Headteacher

THE LOCKDOWN CONTINUES

Yesterday's announcement means that our School cannot open on Monday, for the start of Term 5. The earliest return date would appear now to be Monday 11 May, but I assume it will be a further three weeks before this is confirmed if, indeed, it is to be confirmed. The next three-weekly review of the lockdown is on Thursday 7 May; that is immediately before the special VE Day Bank Holiday. Whether or not the Government will be in a position to release the lockdown immediately before a bank holiday weekend is a decision which, at the moment, seems a long way off. Let us all hope, though, that normal service at Bourne Grammar can resume sooner rather than later.

The School will continue to provide supervision for children of parents/carers who are Key Workers who need their sons and daughters to be supervised during normal School hours. This supervision has continued throughout the holiday period. I am grateful to the large number of colleagues - more than could be deployed, in fact - who volunteered to provide this supervision over the two weeks of the Easter holiday.

GCSE AND A-LEVEL RESULTS DAYS

Once the lockdown was announced the Government acted quickly to cancel this summer's GCSE and A-Level examinations. That decision added considerably to the sense of shock faced by our Year 11 and Year 13 students as they suddenly found themselves at the end of their GCSE and A-Level careers in School with no clear indication of how their grades would be determined. The Government subsequently issued guidance which explains in detail and with clarity how schools are to determine students' grades and rank-orders within each grade, in each subject for both GCSE and A-Level. The latest version is here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/878869/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_EPQ_AEA_in_maths_-_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents_UPDATED_09APR2020.pdf

This is an exercise which the School will be able to do and do well, always with our students' best interests in mind. Subject Leaders have been briefed and, working with their departmental colleagues, they are ready to do what they need to do to have the required data ready to submit in early June. It will then be for the examination boards to moderate the information submitted by our School and all other schools before issuing GCSE and A-Level grades.

REAL GRADES

It is important to be clear that our Year 11 and Year 13 students will receive real GCSE and A-Level grades, certificated in the usual manner and of equal value and distinction to those achieved by cohorts of students from previous and future years. The coronavirus forces the method by which the grades will be determined to be different this year but the grades themselves will be the genuine article. The students thoroughly deserve the grades following a great deal of very hard work.

RESULTS DAYS

Perhaps to underline the fact that real grades will be issued, the Department for Education confirmed yesterday in its daily briefing to schools that this year's GCSE and A-Level results will be released on the days previously set as the 2020 results days:

We can confirm that A-Level students will get their results on 13 August, and GCSE students will get theirs on 20 August as previously published.

ASTROTURF AND PHASE II

Meanwhile, although the School is mostly closed and locked up, work continues apace on the Astro. It seems quite possible now that the new facility will be finished, or nearly so, by the time the School re-opens. Indoors, this year's major remodelling refurbishment exercise - *Phase II* of the multi-year programme and by a distance the most extensive and costly phase - has progressed over Easter and contractors intending to tender have visited the site. At present *Phase II* remains on course. I mention these projects because they are important for the School but also to note that at this unprecedented time work to improve our School for our students continues. If anything good can come from lockdown it is that building works can progress more smoothly when the School is not in session.

GOOD WISHES

I sincerely hope that all students and their families are staying healthy. I hope too that families are finding ways to cope with life under lockdown whilst dealing with the mass of challenges and worries that it inevitably brings into all our lives.
