

Trentham Academy

Allerton Road, Trentham, Stoke-on-Trent
Staffordshire ST4 8PQ

T 01782 883200 F 01782 234537
E trentham@trenthamacademy.co.uk
www.trenthamacademy.co.uk

Headteacher: Mr M Whittingham
BSc PGCE AST PGC MEd NASENCO NPQH



5 February 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

I hoped you enjoyed last week's video blog from the Academy and have had the opportunity to watch the video blogs published today.

Wellbeing

We are currently focusing on student and staff wellbeing by arranging some inspirational sessions. We are also hoping some of you will be able to join your children in these, or review the recorded sessions with them. We are organising 2 City-wide events, which will take place on the 3 March and 17 March from 12.30 pm -2.30pm, with a specialist speaker David Hyner. David will bring together some amazing guest speakers to talk to the students; these include best-selling authors, world champions and top educators. The sessions will focus on practical strategies about managing worry, positive mindfulness, motivation in our challenging Covid context, achieving goals and aspiring for success and will support wellbeing in a holistic way. We know how hard this lockdown has been and we recognise the challenges that both parents and students are facing. I personally face the challenge of juggling my 3 children's education and the issues it creates. We are working incredibly hard to find solutions to the problems we all encounter and we are determined to create a clear focus on wellbeing in our community. The sessions should be extremely positive events to take part in and we will share the confirmed details soon.

Year 11 Update

We wrote to Year 11 Parents and Carers earlier in the week about Year 11 mock exams. We recognise the real difficulties and stress presented by major assessments being completed at home for our Year 11s and with the news regarding school return and its uncertainty, we have decided to postpone our Mock exams for a number of weeks. We will inform students and parents/carers when the next scheduled set of major assessments will take place when we have some more confirmed details about the return to school. However,



staff will still conduct mini assessments, quizzes and end of topic tests as they would normally do in their general teaching practice. We are hoping there will be more clarity surrounding the final assessments for Year 11 at the end of this month as the consultation with Ofqual has closed and is currently being reviewed.

We will still issue reports showing student progress during week commencing 22 March, as planned. This data will be an accumulation of scores from ongoing assessments and previous mock exam results. Until the results of this consultation are published and final decisions by Ofqual are made, we are continuing the Year 11 curriculum as usual. Once we know how the students will be assessed we will share comprehensive information about how their final grades will be awarded and whether this will include a final piece of assessed work. Even if the students are not examined on all the content, it is of course important we complete as much of the courses as possible to ensure all students have a strong foundation of knowledge for their level 3 courses and destinations.

MP Jack Brereton Webinar

Our MP Jack Brereton is holding a webinar with students on 22 February from 10.00 am – 10.30 am. Mrs Hazel will be in contact with Year 9, 10 and 11 students who may want to take part by posing questions to our MP, listening to his answers and discussing some of the issues facing our local community.

Finally

I would like to thank you for your support in these very difficult times. We are planning a small surprise for all of our students next week and we hope that brings a small smile in these dark times. My warmest wishes to you and your family

Yours sincerely



Mike Whittingham
Headteacher

