

Trentham Academy

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14th May, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

This year has been an extremely challenging year for our whole community. As the year is quickly coming to a close, I wanted to update you on a number of important matters. We have spoken to Year 11 this afternoon in an assembly and shared our plans for their remaining time at Trentham Academy.

As you are aware, the normal GCSE examination season that would have been in full swing by now has been replaced by Teacher Assessed Grades. The rest of the usual plans to celebrate leaving have also been curtailed due to ongoing restrictions and arrangements for post-16 transition for our young people have also been managed very differently from normal.

It is because of these impacts that I also want to do things a little differently this year.

Formal on-site education for Year 11 will end on Friday 28th May and will coincide with half term for us all. Lessons will run as normal up to and including this day with standards of uniform and conduct reinforced ensuring it will be very much, normal service for all. During this time, students will complete coursework in subjects such as Art, Enterprise and PE and in other subjects will complete subject related projects on topics of general interest and be introduced to generic and subject specific bridging resources for their post-16 pathways. We anticipate that all assessments and evidence will be collated by this time to enable us to undertake the rigorous process of final assessment and the timely upload to all the relevant examination boards. There may well be a necessity to make contact with your child to confirm a few small details after this point but the formal teaching and assessment will have concluded by 28th May.

From Monday 7th June, Year 11 will move to a home based digital blended curriculum incorporating the post-16 resources and opportunities introduced to them over the two weeks before half term. All students will have a daily task set on Firefly which includes generic skills-based work to ensure they are prepared for the next steps. It will also include subject specific resources from which they can select the activities most suitable for them. We are aware that many of our 'normal' practices have been curtailed this year and would like to offer a range of experiences that students can use to ready themselves for transition to sixth form, prepare for the world of work or just to give something back to the community as a whole. Participating in these tasks over the full two weeks will give your child a great opportunity to get prepared for their next steps.

Finally, we will welcome students back to the academy on Friday 18th June for a Leavers' Celebration Event. We will share details of this event after half term but it is expected to last from 11am – 2pm. The event this year will be made much bigger in recognition of the challenging year they have faced.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Whittingham
HeadTeacher

