

Our Ref : SPP/JET  
8 January 2021

**All Saints**  
Catholic High School

Headteacher: Mr S P Pender



Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you regarding the Government announcement this week concerning the summer 2021 examinations. I fully appreciate how anxious and frustrated you and your child must feel and although we do not currently have any definitive information to share from the Department for Education or Ofqual I feel it is important to share our own position at this time.

Information circulating in the media regarding the nature of assessment this year is, at this stage, purely speculation and the key message from us to our Year 11 and Year 13 students is not to allow such speculation to detract them from their full engagement and commitment to their studies. What has not changed is the importance of using this time in their examination year to ensure they are all working to the very best of their abilities. Both Mr Shaw, our KS4 Progress Leader and Mrs Broadhurst, Head of Sixth Form, have sent out such messages to our students this week and I would ask you to reiterate this message at home, particularly during the challenging period of school closure.

In response to the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday 4 January, the chief regulator of Ofqual issued a brief statement which, we feel, reinforces that message to students across the country;

*"We know that this is a difficult time for students, their parents and carers, teachers and trainers. Our message to students is this: please continue to engage as fully as you can in your education. That will be online for the majority of students.... This will put you in the best position, whatever arrangements are made for your qualifications.... We know that many are seeking clarity as soon as possible. We will provide further updates as soon as we can."*

The assurance I can give you is that, as a school, ensuring our Year 11 and Year 13 students are as equipped as they can be to gain the highest possible grades in the summer remains at the forefront of our planning. Teachers continue to deliver the curriculum as planned and, once we have further information, we will ensure that all assessment of students' work is regular, rigorous and fair. We will share details as they are confirmed.

In the meantime, if you have any queries or questions please direct them to [m.shaw@allsaints.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:m.shaw@allsaints.sheffield.sch.uk) (Year 11) or [m.broadhurst@allsaints.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:m.broadhurst@allsaints.sheffield.sch.uk) (Year 13)

Best wishes to you all and be assured of our thoughts and prayers during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely

S P Pender  
Headteacher