



Magna Academy

Poole

an Aspirations Academy

Principal: Ms N Ullah

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8th January 2021

Dear Year 11,

A message from your Head of Year

I would like to start by wishing you all a happy new year. I know that this has not been the beginning of the year we would all have hoped for, but we need to be sure in the knowledge that we are all doing all we can to make the best of the current situation we find ourselves in.

By now you will all be aware that exams in the summer have been cancelled and we have also made the decision as an Academy to cancel the spring vocational exams. None of this is ideal and I know that many of you will be worrying about the next stages and what happens from this point onwards. Please be assured that as an Academy we will be doing everything we can to ensure you leave Magna Academy in the summer with the best possible grades you can and with the best possible opportunities ahead of you.

We would like to reassure you that we have up to date information on how each of you has been progressing so far in your studies. Your parents/carers will be able to access your working at grade for each of your subjects, using their Progresso parental login. If your parents/carers cannot remember their login details, they may contact Ms Jones via ajones@magna-aspirations.org to gain access to this. You may need to use this report when applying for Magna Sixth Form and Colleges for September 2021. I am very pleased to inform you that over half of year 11 have already applied to study at Magna Academy in our Sixth Form for September 2021. If you wish to stay with us, with many of your peers, please contact Mrs Rodgers via mrodgers@magna-aspirations.org.

Your teachers will be closely monitoring how you manage your remote learning over this half term, to support and ensure that you are keeping up to date with your studies. If you fall behind in your work, then your teachers will be getting in touch to see how they can support you. This is going to be even more significant as on Wednesday this week, the government announced that centre assessed grades will be used to provide you with your GCSE results in the summer. In time, the government will give schools more detailed guidance on how schools should generate centre assessed grades and we will keep you and your parents/carers informed of such details. It is important that you understand the current working at grades that you have on Progresso will inevitably change from now until the summer. Students traditionally make strong progress over the final months leading up to the summer exams. This will be taken into account when we are providing the exam boards with your centre assessed grades. You need to understand that we rely on you keeping up with your work at home and submitting it, to give us as much evidence as possible to inform our decision of your final centre assessed grades.

I know that it is hard to find the motivation to keep on top of school work at home, however please do make the most of this time to study, to prepare for the next stage in your educational journey, and to ensure you have a set of results you are proud of in the summer. It is now more important than ever before that you show resilience and determination to do your best and not put your work off. You produced some fantastic work in the first national lockdown and then excelled yourselves when you were in your summer 2020 pod sessions.

Use this experience as encouragement to keep up the hard work, and think about how you will be rewarded at the end of the academic year, with a fantastic set of results. We have had a record number of applications to our Sixth Form, which fills me with so much pride. I now want you all to be able to gain access to the next stage in your planned education pathway, but this means you need to continue to put in the hard work.

If you are having any issues with access to work please let either your tutor or myself know, so that we can look to resolve any issues as soon as possible and ensure you are able to keep up to date with your work.

Due to the academy closure all mock examinations scheduled for this term have been cancelled. When we have a definite date for your return to the academy, we will reorganise your planned mock examinations, to give you the opportunity to sit them. This will also form a basis for the grades you will be awarded. Keeping up with your studies now will not only provide us with evidence of your work, but also better prepare you for these mock examinations.

Your tutors will be making fortnightly contact home again and I encourage you to use this opportunity to ask any questions you might have about your subjects or your work. They are all experts in their area and will do their best to support you in these challenging times. Alongside these calls, you can also stay in touch with your tutors through your tutor google classrooms. We will be using this space as a way to share revision strategies and suggestions of how to maximise your learning at home. You all received a pack on the last day of term with revision strategies, make sure to utilise this to support you in your preparations.

I know this is not an ideal situation but I have faith that you will be able to excel and make the best of the situation. Stay safe and look after yourselves.

Kind regards,

Mrs Cook
Head of Year 11