



Diocese of St. Albans



ST MARY'S
CE HIGH SCHOOL

9th March 2020

Dear Parents/Carers of Year 11 and Year 13 Students

The Government organisation for exams and assessments, 'Ofqual', have issued the following statement:

'We recognise that students, parents, schools and colleges will be concerned about the possible impact of coronavirus on the 2020 summer exam series. Our advice at this time is to continue to prepare for exams and other assessments as normal. We continue to work closely with exam boards, other regulators and the Department for Education and we have met to plan for a range of scenarios, as the public would expect. Our overriding priorities are fairness to students this summer and keeping disruption to a minimum. It is still many weeks until exams start and we will issue updated advice if necessary, giving schools and colleges as much notice as possible.'

The message is, clearly, it is business as usual. Please discuss this with your son/daughter and tell them that we will be continuing to prepare them for exams as we have done for many years, and that they should continue to engage with this positively (as they have done all year so far).

Any assumptions by students that there will be some kind of deal where they get a grade without sitting exams, thus making rigorous preparation unnecessary, is naive in the extreme and would be detrimental to their grades and their 'next steps' in education. Students must continue to work hard, with a view to taking the exams in May and June as expected and I thank you for your support in talking this through with your son/daughter.

Thank you

Nicholas Simms
Headteacher

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