



Dear Parents/Guardians

Assalaamu'Alaikum

As the school holidays are approaching, I am writing to update you on the current situation regarding the school closure. These are very trying times for everybody, students, staff and parents, and I would like to thank you all for your support during this very difficult period. We hope that the situation will be resolved as soon as possible, and that we will all remain safe and well until things get back to normal, Inshallah.

As you know, all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are working extremely hard to support your daughter's education during the school closure. Teachers have been working tirelessly to provide the best possible service under these unprecedented circumstances, setting and marking work, and responding to individual student queries. Office staff have been phoning every single student at least once a week, to check that everyone is well, and to address any concerns they might have.

The vast majority of the students are to be commended for the effort they have put in over the past two weeks. Most have been working very hard, and are communicating well with their teachers; it is important that they continue to complete all work set, so that they are not at a disadvantage when the school finally reopens.

Unfortunately, despite personal reminders from staff, a few girls are not as engaged in their learning as others, and have not submitted any work in a number of subjects. We would ask that parents check that their daughters are completing the work set, and inform the relevant staff member where there is a problem – your support in this is highly appreciated.

You will be aware that GCSE examinations have been cancelled for this academic year, and that exam boards will be awarding grades based on information provided by the schools. We are required to provide estimated grades, which take into account students' previous achievement and current learning; experience tells us that in the final push towards the exam period, students refine their skills and knowledge to the utmost, producing their best work at this time. It is vital, therefore, that Year 11 students continue to put maximum effort into their work during these last few weeks, so that teachers have up to date material on which to base their predictions. Students who do not submit work during this period risk being at a disadvantage.

A number of students and parents have raised concerns that their daughters have felt overwhelmed by the amount of work set over the past two weeks. This is possibly because teachers have set a body of work to be completed over a two-week period, and students have assumed that it had to be completed all at once. We have asked staff from now on to make it clear how much work they expect to be completed each week, reminding them that this should not exceed the total that would be set for the number of lessons and homework the student normally have in their subject in any given week. In order to would allow students to catch up on work set so far, no further work will be set from tomorrow, and students will have until the start of next term to complete the tasks set so far. The school will be closed during this period, and will reopen after the spring holiday Insha'Allah.

May I take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued support, and to wish you all a safe and pleasant break.

Wassalam

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