



# Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

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3<sup>rd</sup> April 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

May I first of all wish you well and I sincerely hope that you and your family are safe and that you have all that you need.

I appreciate that this is a time of significant uncertainty and I wanted to reiterate that the first priority is to ensure that everyone is safe and well.

In terms of working from home, we have tried to get the balance right to ensure that our pupils have sufficient work to complete and remain stimulated and engaged but without overly prescribing things for them as we know it is difficult to work from home in the same way. We will continue to set work online for them to access and they have access to SAM Learning which can be invaluable for 30 minutes a day. Equally, any time spent as a family, playing games, planting seeds, baking, walking, having long discussions etc., is all time well spent and I do not want anyone to feel too pressured as to the amount of work being completed at home. There are learning opportunities in everything and it is important to ensure that our pupils are enriched and active.

A little and often is more than enough, encourage reading and learning key skills such as their times tables by heart can only help. Please do share any of your home projects with us on Twitter, it is always lovely to see how our pupils are doing.

For our Year 11 parents and pupils, there will no doubt be so many questions unanswered and I understand the anxiety that this can create. We will continue to communicate with you as and when we have information to share. What I can confirm is that summer examinations will not be taking place and instead, pupils will be awarded their grades using a formula created by the Department for Education. We are expecting more information on this very soon, however what is apparent is that grades will not be awarded based on a single approach. It would seem more likely that a wide range of information will be taken into account, including KS2 performance and the schools own internal assessment and data. The prior performance of the school may also be a factor and therefore, with a 3 year improving trend and results last year which were significantly above the national and local averages, we are in a positive position to validate the best outcomes that we can.

I have been very grateful to you all for your patience during such uncertainty and respect that we have not been inundated with requests asking what their grades will be. There is nothing more that our pupils can do at this stage and equally, teachers are not in a position to share any information about predicted grades, largely because we do not yet know what the formula will be and how it will be validated. What I can say is that we will do everything that we can to ensure that our pupils receive results that are fair and in keeping with what they deserve to achieve.

I was also asked about the arrangements for leaving at the end of Year 11 although that may yet turn out to be a little premature. We do not know at this stage when we anticipate schools to return, however when they do, we will ensure that our year 11's receive the send-off that they deserve. We will find time for shirt signing, photographs and a prom at some stage. It is their entitlement and I am committed to ensuring that this happens.

Likewise with regards to the Year 7 camp. Whilst we are returning cheques to families at this stage, we will consider the feasibility of re-organising the trip at a later date. The Normanby camp is such an amazing experience for our pupils and I would certainly want to give it every opportunity to go ahead at some stage, even if that is in September.

Finally, I recognise that this is a very challenging time for everyone and we are all doing what we can.

We do have staff available to support you if you should need. We can be contacted through the usual email channels or on the following number: 07707 653 447. School continues to open for our key worker families where necessary and all staff are accessible online to support with any home learning enquiries.

Thank you once again, please stay safe and take care of one another.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Rowlands', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

K Rowlands  
Headteacher