

Dear parents, carers and Year 8 students,

And so it goes on...and yet, amidst the sea of uncertainty, landscape of disappointment and sadness, there is “light” which is seen daily by the wonderful interactions our students are having online with one another and their teachers. The quality of work continues to stun and impress and we are beyond grateful to the support teams at home, who are tirelessly helping our students navigate their way through this.

Assessments and Reporting Home to Parents/Carers:

I know that parents/carers and students are concerned about how we will run assessments and reporting home this year; especially in light of the cancellation of some Parents’ Evenings last year. Below I have provided, what I hope, is some reassurance and an outline of how we plan to proceed this year.

Year 8	
Wednesday 24 th February	Options Booklets are emailed home to parents/carers and available on our website. The booklets will contain information about the Options process and a brief outline of the courses on offer.
Friday 26 th February	Year 8 Reports Issued
Tuesday 2 nd March	Year 8 Virtual Parents’ Evening 3.15 p.m. – 5.30 p.m. (Parents/carers will be able to book appointments with subject teachers using an on-line platform. Details and instructions will be sent out closer to the time)
Tuesday 2 nd March	6 p.m. Options Website goes live – this will include pre-recorded information from subject leaders as well as an overview about the process
Monday 17 th May – Friday 21 st May	Year 8 Assessment week*
Friday 18 th June	Reports Issued

*Students in Years 8 have regular on-going assessments in all subjects, however, “Assessment Week” is designed as an opportunity for students to complete a small number of Assessments (i.e. not for all subjects) in the examination hall, so that they become familiar with the concepts of revision, preparation and formal exam arrangements.

Review of Remote Learning

As part of our on-going review of Remote Learning we have been considering the timing of the school day and the lack of “screen breaks” for students and staff. In light of this, a revised

timetable will be shared with you on Thursday 11th February and the new timetable will be implemented after half term. We hope that this revision enables our students to take regular screen breaks, manage their work effectively and find time to stand up and take a daily walk!

And finally...

Next week is national Mental Health Awareness week and as I stressed in my letter home last week, we really do encourage all our families and students to reach out for support in what we know is a really tough time. Some additional resources are below –

Activities for [families](#)

Social Media safety [advice and resources](#)

As always, thank you for your on-going support,

Yours sincerely,

Miriam Oakley