



25 March 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

I have been contacted by a few parents (and students) about whether or not Year 11 work should be completed.

The Government has said that GCSEs will not take place this year and that a grade will be awarded based on predicted grades and past performance. However, this plan is naturally quite vague at the moment and it is not clear exactly how all of this will work. The Government has also said that students will be able to sit an exam if they are unhappy with the GCSE grade that is awarded. Again, I don't know the full details about this and I will update you when I know more.

A few Year 11 children have questioned why they should complete work if there are no GCSE exams to sit. This is a perfectly reasonable question and one that I'd ask if I was in their position. At the moment, I am advising students to continue working for four reasons:

1. The government has changed its direction a few times over the past two weeks, which is understandable because the national situation keeps changing. Until I know exactly the process for awarding GCSE grades, I cannot be one-hundred per cent sure that there won't be a plan in the future to run the exams process at a later stage in the year.
2. If students receive a lower grade than hoped for (and I can't imagine that the grade will only depend on teacher predictions otherwise it will be open to abuse) then students may want to sit an exam. If they have completed no work, then it will be difficult to suddenly try to cram the information in.
3. Students will be taking up places at college in the Autumn. If they have not completed any academic work in almost 6 months, then they will find it extremely difficult to suddenly switch into academic mode. It would be the equivalent of lying on a sofa eating snacks for 6 months then expecting to get up and run a marathon.
4. Completing work will give your children a bit of structure over the next few months and will help them from becoming bored.

The staff at The Hamble School will continue to set work for Year 11 students on *Show My Homework*. Until the exam boards confirm what will happen regarding grades, my advice is that your children continue to work.

[www.thehambleschool.co.uk](http://www.thehambleschool.co.uk)

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Headteacher: Mr A Govan, BA (Hons), MA Ed.

I hope that this helps you make an informed decision.

Please keep yourselves safe and take care.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alaric Govan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

**ALARIC GOVAN**

Headteacher

*If, at any time, you should require special arrangements to be made when visiting the school and/or in order to participate fully in supporting your child at school (e.g. an accessible venue for meetings, if you are a wheelchair user, assistance with translation of documents or enlarged copies of communications etc.), please do not hesitate to let us know.*