

Our Ref: PRC/EMH

22 January 2021

Dear Parent/Students,

With daily deaths rising to well over 1000 per day this week, I do hope this letter finds you and your family well. It is clear we all need to continue to do all we can individually and collectively to reduce the chances of infection in our community.

In school, we have continued to cater for a very small minority of key worker/vulnerable students alongside completing our final week of external vocational exams and conducting a successful mass testing trial.

### **Remote learning**

By the end of next week, Year 10-13 will be having at least one live lesson per week in every subject. Please be clear, this complements work set on Frog, it is not a replacement for it. Since I last wrote to you, over 500 live lessons have been delivered but research still shows variety is key for all the reasons mentioned in my last update. May I take this opportunity to thank students for the sensible way they have engaged in these lessons.

Please remember to continue to keep to a routine of timetabled lessons, wherever possible, and make sure you stop at the end of the school day.

### **Y11 and Y13 exams**

As you may already know, currently Ofqual and the DFE are consulting about how student grades should be awarded this summer. As a school we will be responding to this consultation. If you would also like to share your thoughts on the key issues for consideration then the link below will guide you.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/consultation-launched-on-2021-exam-replacement>

Key issues include the use of externally set papers and whether these should be made compulsory or not, and what internal and external quality assurance processes should take place. The deadline for responses is 11.45pm on 29th January 2021.

Even without the results of this consultation, it is clear that Y11 and Y13 students need to continue to engage fully with their lessons. The work that we are covering now may well feature in future assessments which could be used to determine a final grade.

**Preit Chahal** Principal

**Hugh Robinson** CEO

Knightsbridge, Great North Road, Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 2JH

T +44 (0)191 285 1000

E [admin@ga.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ga.newcastle.sch.uk) W [www.gosforthacademy.org.uk](http://www.gosforthacademy.org.uk)

I know that it is a time of uncertainty for students and staff but what we can all do is focus on what is certain and within our control ... and that is engaging purposefully in work set and submitting work regularly. The door for the awarding of grades is very firmly still wide open so I know we will make the very best of the situation we find ourselves in.

I am pleased to report that our teaching staff have been very impressed with our Y11 and Y13 students; I am sure that will continue to be the case.

### Year 9 Options

The Year 9 Options Frog site was launched on Monday and due to the amount of information provided and the significance of the decision, we have delayed the deadline for returns until 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021. Please note that the Options Form that needs to be submitted is on Frog Parent, and all students and parents will need to view this before being able to make final decisions on which subjects to take. Please get in touch if you have issues accessing Frog Parent.

Support and a variety of ways to get in touch for advice and guidance on the Year 9 Options Process are outlined on the Frog site, so please do make contact with any questions you have.

### Update on Sixth Form Team

Parents and Sixth Form students will already know that Miss Bonello is now the Year Manager for Year 12, supported by Mrs Darrie. Miss Cassidy has now taken over the provision for more able and high achieving students, so she takes over Miss Bonello's previous cohort of students from both Year 12 & 13.

### Finally

Free School Meal voucher instructions have been issued by email with a follow up text message. We hope this helps those eligible families over the next few weeks. Instructions are fairly self-explanatory but feel free to get in touch ([admin@ga.newcastle.sch.uk](mailto:admin@ga.newcastle.sch.uk)) should you need support.

I hope everyone enjoys a break from screens over the weekend. I plan to listen to some podcasts and go for a run-wish me luck!

Yours faithfully



**Preit Chahal**  
Principal