

23rd March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Daily Update – 23rd March 2020

Firstly, please let me thank you for your overwhelming support over the last week. The supportive phone calls, emails and Facebook comments have been most welcome in what has been the most challenging times that we have ever faced.

It is hard to believe that only a fortnight ago we were in the midst of our planning for exams, revision and Easter sessions. It goes to show how everything can change so quickly.

The situation continues to evolve and, like you, we are awaiting crucial updates on a wide range of subjects. These are unprecedented times and the Government are having to work out solutions to complex problems very quickly. Once again, we thank you for your patience and want to assure you that we will continue to update you as we know more.

Y11 and Y13 Grades, Exams and Destinations

Over the weekend, the DfE have published a 'Frequently Asked Questions' page, which is available online or by clicking [here](#).

We would encourage you to read it with your child as this includes information on how grades will be calculated and awarded and further updates about how this may affect the UCAS process.

Please note that there is a possible exam series expected for the Autumn term for students who wish to appeal against the grade awarded. We are awaiting further information. We do have a number of students contacting us regarding this matter and we are responding as quickly as we can, but in reality, we do not actually have any further information to share until we receive further updates to the above from the DfE.

In the meanwhile, we would encourage students to keep learning:

- **Coursework** - students should complete any OCR National and BTEC units to the highest standard. We appreciate that you may not be able to complete some of this work as you don't have access to facilities such as CAD or the workshop, but please continue to push ahead with the written units.
- **Examined Units** - keep studying as you may decide you want to take the exams in the Autumn to appeal your grades. Keep up good learning habits to help prepare you for the next stage of your education career.
- We want to make sure that we give our learners the best opportunity to succeed and until we have clear guidance on how the grades will be awarded, we encourage you to keep going.

WMG Academy for Young Engineers, Chelmsley Road, Chelmsley Wood, B37 5FD

Y11 and Y13 Destinations

Our Careers Advisers and staff will be in contact with you over the next few weeks about your planned destinations for September. They are there to support you and provide guidance where they can. For those students in Year 11 who have applied to join the WMG Academy Sixth Form, we are in the process of reviewing our own admissions processes and will continue to do everything that we can to support our students.

Y10 and Y12 Work

Work is being set on Google Classroom. Please make sure that your child continues to log in and complete the work. Although the school building has closed, learning continues online! Staff are working hard to make sure that students have work to do and will assess and feedback as required. When we do resume school, they will be working on the principle that this work has been completed.

Safeguarding

If you have any safeguarding concerns, then please do contact the Academy via email to solihull.info@wmgacademy.org.uk. If you feel that a child is at risk of immediate significant harm, then please contact MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub). These numbers are on the website.

Ongoing Communication

We will continue to send out daily letters this week. We hope that the situation will have stabilised by the end of this week and we will be able to move to twice-weekly communication.

Please stay safe and look after yourselves and others. Do not hesitate to contact us using the email address if there is anything else we can do to support you, your child and your family at this time.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K Tague
Executive Principal



Mr S Tait
Associate Principal

Dear Year 11 and 13 Students,

RE: Letter to Students

I Hope you are all keeping well and do totally appreciate the anxiety and worry the recent events have placed on you all.

We of course recognise there is a lot of uncertainty about the qualifications for which you were preparing this summer. We wanted to be able to communicate with you regarding home working and what this may mean for you over the next few days and weeks.

Year 11

- Most of you will be assigned coursework completion tasks over the next few weeks. We do not know what evidence we will have to provide to confirm grades. At this moment, we strongly recommend that you should continue to complete your coursework to the highest possible quality as it could be the evidence that we can use in recommending grades to the awarding bodies.
- Please co-operate with your teachers as they set this and maintain a dialogue with them as they mark and provide feedback. Please make no assumptions that 'previous coursework grades are the only ones that count'. If you are able to complete final units at a higher level, your average performance could well improve, leading to higher outcomes.
- For subjects which have final exams, it is still, at the moment, important to complete the work set. It appears that 'teacher assessment' will be central in determining your grade, which will also probably take into account mock performance, recent attitudes to learning and professional judgement. However it has also been suggested that you may have the opportunity to appeal against a finally awarded grade if you disagree with it. If this were the case, you must have maintained your studies to ensure that you revise and refresh your knowledge - otherwise your chances of over-turning a possible appeal with a poor performance at a later exam will be much reduced.
- Despite the current difficulties, you are still attending a virtual school. Although exams are important, you come to school to learn and this process should continue at the time being at least until exact details of how grades will be decided are released as the risk of doing otherwise are just too high.

Year 13

- Please read the first bullet point issued to Year 11 above. For BTEC students, we strongly recommend to you that you should continue to complete your coursework to the highest possible quality as it will provide the evidence that we can use in recommending grades. In cases where you require academy/external facilities to complete a unit, we will advise on next steps once the awarding bodies have given us clearer guidance - we are pursuing this on your behalf on a daily basis.
- For subjects with written final exams, we understand that the logic of completing your exam preparation is more difficult to appreciate. Nonetheless, revising key topics in line with any teacher communication on Google Classroom will provide you with a useful preparation for your chosen destination. Again, for both apprenticeships and university applicants, individual organisations will provide you with further information regarding your application process and please let us know of any support you need in terms of references or endorsements of work

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undertaken. Mrs Carmichael, Mrs Brown and Mr Young will continue to advise and support you in this area throughout this period and beyond.

As always, students are welcome to contact any member of staff at the Academy if they need help and support. We fully appreciate the emotional turmoil students must have gone through over the past week but will endeavour to get as much certainty for you as further information and guidance is released by the government and examination boards.

In the meantime, keep safe and look after yourselves and others.

Mr Tait

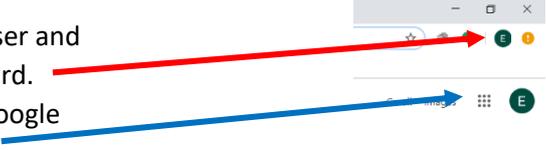
Google Classroom for Students and Parents at Home

This document includes general guidance for Students who are working from home and Parents who wish to receive updates via Google Classroom, with respect to their child's work.

Students

WMG Academy uses Google Classroom exclusively for the setting of coursework and homework. All students should be familiar with the use of Google Classroom, but different PC configurations may mean that it is slightly different when at home, to the usual classroom PC or Laptop.

Here is a shortcut method to logging into Google Apps from any PC.

1. Open a Browser
 - a. The preference is to use Google Chrome
 - b. Other browsers will work fine, but may limit some functions
 - c. Google Chrome can be easily loaded by searching 'download google chrome'
 2. Password
 3. Navigate to www.google.co.uk
 4. Click on the circular icon in the top right of the browser and log in using your Academy email address and password.
 5. Once logged in, use the nine squares to access the Google Apps available to you.
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Parents

Parents CANNOT log directly into Google Classroom. They receive an email from Google with a regular update as to the work being set and a student's progress. When Google Classroom was configured, earlier this year, you would have received an email from Google asking you if you wish to receive these updates. If you have a Gmail Account, you can elect to receive daily updates, other email addresses can only receive weekly.

If you are not receiving these, please email g.jacklin@wmgacademy.org.uk with: -

1. Your child's name (First and Last Name)
2. Their date of birth
3. The email address you wish to use to receive updates

We will then update our records and you will receive a new email from Google asking you to confirm you wish to receive these updates.