



The Arnewood School

11 – 19 Academy

Working Together - Shaping Tomorrow

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Dear Parent/Carer/Student

Re: Awarding of GCSE/AS/A Level Qualifications

Just a few weeks ago, none of us would have anticipated that schools would be required to close last Friday afternoon. I was very impressed by the way the student body acted in the face of this adversity and the mature manner in which they conducted themselves as they came to terms with the temporary suspension of their attendance at school. This was particularly hard for students in Year 11, 12 and 13, not least of all as there will be no examinations at key stage 4 and post 16 in this academic year.

You may have read that already the government has announced that instead grades will be awarded based on teacher assessment. I wish to reassure you that this is something well within capability of the teaching profession and at The Arnewood School will be robust and scrutinised for fairness. At their final assembly, I explained to Year 11 and Sixth Form students that we shall continue to deliver the examination specification being assessed using Firefly. Students have also been asked to retain work they complete at home and should be prepared to present a "portfolio" of their exercise books and coursework so that it can be used as evidence of achievement if required for internal and/or external verification. This evidence will potentially be used to sit alongside other forms of assessment already completed or that might be sent in the future. We shall be resistant to using mock exam results alone as we recognise many students consolidate learning in the final months of their studies.

While there are uncertain times ahead, students cannot afford to cease learning. I appreciate parents/carers supporting students with home education and again draw attention to The Arnewood Virtual School utilising Firefly. Links are prominent on the school's website at www.arnewood.hants.sch.uk I shall provide regular updates for the school community at www.arnewood.hants.sch.uk/covid-19

May I take this opportunity to express, on behalf of staff, thanks for the kind words of support many of you have offered the school; I am sure we shall get through this together as a community.

Yours faithfully

N. M. Pressnell

Nigel Pressnell
Headteacher

