

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Chief Executive – Marion Plant OBE, FCGI

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Dear Year 11 Pupils and Parents

W: [www.midlandacademiestrust.co.uk](http://www.midlandacademiestrust.co.uk)

## Re: The importance of Year 11 pupils continuing to engage and complete work set by teachers at this critical time

Further to our recent letter to you, Ofqual, the organisation who oversee exams for the government, and the Department for Education have issued statements about potential proposals for how pupils will be assessed in examination subjects this year. They will shortly commence a consultation on these proposals and when the final details have been issued, we will share these with you. These proposals differ to some of the media messages you may have seen. For example, the proposals include some examinations, although smaller than what pupils were due to sit originally.

As we are yet to have a confirmed position with full details from the government and awarding bodies it is vital that pupils continue to complete all of the work set by their teachers, continue to complete coursework and assessments as required and prepare to be assessed in the subjects they study at the end of the year, even if this assessment is school based.

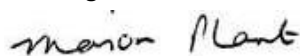
A statement from the Education Secretary Gavin Williamson yesterday, stated that “given the disruption children and young people have faced, it is vital we **maximise the remaining opportunity for them to be taught for as long as possible**, so they have every opportunity to catch up. This will enable them to successfully progress, be that onto further or higher education or employment. It is my view that a teacher’s final judgement on a student’s grade ought to be as late as possible in the academic year to maximise remaining teaching time and ensure students are motivated to remain engaged in education. **This year we are asking teachers to assess their students**, and it is my view that we should seek ways to support them to do so in a fair and consistent fashion. **A breadth of evidence should inform teachers’ judgements**, and the provision training and guidance will support teachers to reach their assessment of a student’s deserved grade... In addition, I would like to explore the possibility of **providing externally set tasks or papers**, in order that teachers can draw on this resource to support their assessments of students.”

It is for this reason that we are writing to you now to highlight the importance of pupils completing all assignments and working fully to demonstrate the best of their abilities. Not doing so will jeopardise their outcomes (grades) for this year and potentially impact on post 16 choices. It is vital that pupils remain engaged in all lessons and remote learning, with work submitted on time. For those studying vocational course such as BTECs, written work and assignments are going to become increasingly important should vocational exams not take place and therefore submission of this work on time to a high standard is more important than ever. Please note that your teachers will not be able to tell you a predicted grade. The government want schools to submit their final grades as late as possible, so we can use these last two terms to really help you improve. Last year schools were not allowed to share centre assessed grades before results day, so please do not ask.

It has been disappointing to note that engagement and attendance by Year 11 in the last week has not been as good as all other year groups, especially as this is the most important year in a pupil’s education. We know that this is an unusual year and being motivated when exams in their normal format have been cancelled is difficult, but the reality remains that assessment will take place and teachers must have the evidence for what pupils have learnt and are capable of. We ask that, for their own futures, pupils engage fully at all times and listen to the advice and support of teachers.

We will do all we can to support pupils and are working closely with post-16 destinations to ensure they have successful and positive destinations for next year. We expect pupils to do all they can to maintain as close to normal their work and preparation for the end of Year 11 assessment of their progress and abilities.

Kind regards



Marion Plant OBE  
Chief Executive Officer



Simon Lomax  
Executive Principal

