



# SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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Dear Year 11 and Parents,

The announcement from the Government this evening has left me truly shocked and devastated. It now seems that you will not have the opportunity to show your hard work and talent in the GCSE exams. Your efforts and dedication to your studies has been nothing short of first class and I would have loved to share your success across the county. However, your health, and the health of those around you, must remain the most important aspect of all of our futures.

I could not be more proud of your maturity and work ethic this year and I am sorry the decision has left you in this position. I do, of course, understand why the decision has been made and acknowledge that we are in an unimaginable time; however, I feel that tonight's news has left more questions than answers. Unfortunately, I have very few answers currently and obviously I will share any information when I receive it.

I completely understand the frustration and anger you must be feeling. However, you must never forget that your hard work throughout your time at STFS is something that will stay with you and us forever. You are known by each of your teachers, not just as a student, but as a person. For this reason, I want to assure you as much as I possibly can that however your grades are finally decided, we will fight to get you every single grade you deserve. I also understand that some of you will be in a very strange position regarding your future and where you go now. I want to go back to my message in your first Year 7 assembly when I urged you not to be defined by your GCSEs. You are all so much more than a grade in English or Maths or History; you have become strong, independent, resilient and creative young adults and there are no GCSEs for this. These are the qualities that will carry you on to future successes and achievements throughout your life; don't let the current situation define you. You are all so much more than a GCSE; never forget that.

I also know that you will have many questions about leavers' assembly, prom, shirt signing and the other fun aspects that Year 11s normally have at the end of the year. I promise you, we will do all of those things, and you will have the final day you deserve, whenever that may be. I am also aware that many of you will have questions regarding your place in Sixth Form. This is where your hard work and preparations for your GCSEs have not been wasted. Everything you have been working towards has not gone away, and your efforts will be rewarded. Nothing has been wasted or lost. All those who receive an offer from STFS will have that place honoured. As I said earlier, the teachers at STFS know you so well and it is the quality of the person that is the biggest factor in our decision making.



When we receive more information from the Government regarding your grades and how this will be managed, I will keep you updated.

As a year group, you have had a profound effect on me personally. I have thoroughly enjoyed every part of your education. I could not have asked for a better Year 11: the laughter, the crossed words, the odd swear word, the good days and the bad ones, I would not have changed it for anything.

Stay true to yourself and best wishes,

Mr Pledger

