



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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22nd April 2020

Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

I would normally write at this time of year to wish you well after an Easter break, and to confirm a range of exciting things that happen during the summer term, which is about preparation both for A Level and for University, or apprenticeships. In the current circumstances, may I instead send my best wishes to you all and my hope that you and your families are surviving, and hopefully thriving during these unprecedented times.

As you'll be aware, we have limited information from the Government at present about when schools might return and what that will be like when they do, so what I say may be subject to modification, but I'm going to provide a little information on what I would like you to be currently thinking about/doing in the coming weeks/months.

- School Work** - The location and nature of work being set by the school for Year 12 is on the school website, and students are expected to be doing the work that teachers set. This is really important so that teachers can plan for your return, certain that you have done work set and allowing a uniform starting point for all. Clearly we don't expect you to work like you do at school, and I'd encourage a real focus on health and wellbeing at present, but please do check the website, do the work, and let teachers know how you are getting on. You should expect to submit work to teachers via the various platforms, and to receive some feedback on this.
- Mock Exams** – It will be easier to guide you about these once we have more information about the school year and examinations in 20-21, but we intend to suspend mock exams for Year 12 in the summer until early in the autumn term, as we need to make sure you have a realistic assessment of all the material you would need to have studied for the first year of your A Levels. Therefore, please continue to prepare for the exams, but focus on the work completed – you'll likely need to learn and revise material from the final term of Year 12 prior to the exams.
- Work Experience** – As you'll expect, we think it sensible to cancel work experience this year – not least because employers are unlikely to be able to support it, and if you are in school we will be teaching right up to the end of term. **Students, please can you formally write to employers - an email is fine - copying in your tutor, confirming that you are not seeking a work experience placement for this year and thanking them for offering it. Please do this by May 11th.**
- University and Apprenticeship Applications** – UCAS have confirmed that they intend to operate the university applications process for 2021 as normal, and as such we need to submit references and applications by 15th October. I will send out advice on UCAS in the coming weeks, but for now please continue to work on UniFrog, aiming to complete the personal statement section and log as many hours as possible looking at careers options and choices too. We will support apprenticeship



applications too, but these are best done from January 2021 onwards as they lead quite promptly to jobs starting.

5. **Reports for Year 12** - These were to be written by the end of April, however we are not doing that for obvious reasons. We will instead do a report for you after the mock exams in Year 13. All students will be provided with a subject reference on UniFrog by teachers. Predicted grades will be provided, but may need to be modified in light of guidance from UCAS and the Government.

Please do make the most of this time to prepare yourself for the year ahead - we face an uncertain future and are unclear on the impact of the closure on exam dates and timings, university application cycles and a host of other things – but wish most of all that you are well prepared for the future.

All the very best to you,

Matt Pike
Head of Sixth Form

