

5 January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

## Important Update

Following the Prime Minister's announcement late last night, you will be aware that there has been a clear change in directive; in response to this, I am writing to provide you with the most up to date information that we have.

From today, we have moved into a full 'Lockdown' with the school closed until February Half Term. Full details of the national Lockdown can be found here: [National lockdown: Stay at Home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk). This means that our students will be taught remotely for the next few weeks. This is to keep everyone safe and save lives; this has to be the first priority for everyone. Since the first full Lockdown last March, we have learned a great deal about remote learning and invested significantly in the quality of our technology, pedagogical training and preparation for online teaching. We have refined our provision significantly and Mrs Carré will be writing to you again shortly to outline the additional enhancements that we are making to ensure that we continue to support our students in the best way possible.

## Examinations

Last night, the Department for Education confirmed that public vocational examinations and assessments scheduled to take place in January will go ahead. However in his address to the nation, the Prime Minister also confirmed that, in these circumstances, the government do not think it is possible for examinations to go ahead fairly this summer and, therefore, also confirmed that **GCSEs and A-levels will be cancelled in 2021**. The Secretary of State for Education will be asking Ofqual to consult rapidly on an approach for "alternative arrangements" that will allow students to progress fairly. Schools do not yet know what these alternative arrangements will be.

Students in year 11 and 13 will no doubt be experiencing very mixed feelings about this announcement and I know that many will be feeling unsettled and uncertain about what this will mean for them. I ask you, please, to try not to worry. Individual letters will go out shortly to each of those year groups. Be assured, we are making arrangements for virtual assemblies to take place swiftly in order to offer you reassurance, give you the opportunity to ask questions and share with you as much information as we are able to at this present time. Similarly, we are working very closely with tutors to ensure that you and your families have the support you need. I know that you will all have many questions and, as yet, I cannot give you clear answers to these but I will say, wholeheartedly, that we are committed to supporting you in any way we can; we are keeping a very close eye on developments and we will communicate further information with you as soon as we are able to.

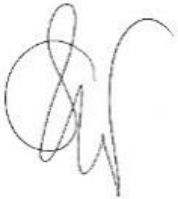


## Key worker information

We remain open to **Children of 'critical workers'** (keyworkers) **and those who are classed as vulnerable**, throughout this period of Lockdown. However, it is important that all students are pre-registered before attending school. Thank you to all of you that have already done this. It has been good to welcome some of these students today. In my previous letter, I shared the information for, and about, 'critical workers' which was recently updated. This can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision> If you require further information about this, please contact Mr Parker, Assistant Headteacher, on the following email address: [pparker@nsg.northants.sch.uk](mailto:pparker@nsg.northants.sch.uk) Mr Parker will be able to provide you with additional information should you need it. Having registered your child, if they are unable to attend school, please phone the school absence line, in the normal way, on each day of absence.

We were looking forward to starting to welcome our students back next week and staff have done an enormous amount of planning for this. We are sorry that we will not be seeing our incredible students for a little while longer and will remain in constant communication with you. As always, if you have any immediate questions, please contact your child's tutor in the first instance and they will be able to offer you support.

With best wishes,



**Cristina Taboada-Naya | Headteacher**  
**Northampton School for Girls**

