

23rd January, 2020.

Dear Parents & Carers,

I hope this letter finds you as well as can be expected as we approach our halfway point of this term.

We have received over 300 applications to date for our Sixth Form for next year. The team is working through these and everyone who has applied will be receiving a personal letter before half term explaining their next steps in the process.

You may have seen that there is an Ofqual consultation live at the moment regarding the summer exam series. We are collating our responses but I attach the link for you, should you wish do the same. The consultation closes on 29th January 2021 <https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2021/01/15/how-2021-could-look-for-students-and-learners-we-want-your-views/>

As we continue to develop and refine our remote learning, Mr Hughes has put another useful link of our website to support students with using Showbie; this can be accessed here: <http://www.deferrers.com/showbie>

One of my highlights this week has been the Year 7 & Year 8 live remote assemblies. We have had hundreds of students sign in, just wonderful to be able to answer their questions and connect as a group. We will be rolling this out to other year groups next week.

The remaining academic summaries for the autumn term will start to be distributed from Monday through the SIMS Parent APP. These are an indication of how your child was working prior to lockdown and not the grade they will receive. The best way to support them is to encourage completion of the remote work until we return to school.

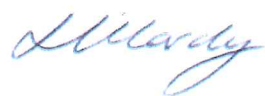
With regards to Year 9 Options, Mr Hand will be sending you all a letter next week explaining the process and how to access our virtual open evening.

A reminder that all our parents have access to the National Online Safety platform where they can find advice and guidance on all the most popular websites young people use and how to ensure appropriate filters are put in place to keep your child safe online on their devices. There is now a new parent app for National Online Safety register here <http://nationalonlinesafety.com/enrol/the-de-ferrers-academy>. You can find more information about online safety on our website at www.deferrers.com/onlinesafety and also at www.deferrers.com/NOS

Can I also ask that you continue to inform the relevant year S&G team if your circumstances change, your child is ill or needs support with their work.

Finally, I asked our Chief Executive, Mr McNeilly for a quote to close this week's update with and has offered: 'A problem is a chance for you to do your best.' Duke Ellington. I think we can agree we are all trying to do our best at this time.

Take care of yourselves.



Mrs. K.D. Hardy
Principal

