

Dear Parents and Carers,

IMPORTANT UPDATES ON KEY STAGE FOUR ACCREDITATION ARRANGEMENTS

I am writing to give you some important updates on our plans for accreditation arrangements for Year 11 students, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on our school.

As with every other school in the country, the coronavirus pandemic has had multiple effects on the curriculum that we originally set out to deliver to all students in the Subject-Led Department. Due to COVID-related restrictions, the delivery of a number of subjects has been affected.

The delivery of the full curriculum has been impacted because of a number of significant reasons. In order to reduce risk for students and staff attending school, all lessons are being delivered within the students' class bases, and this has allowed us to ensure 'bubbles' can be maintained. However, this has meant that students are unable to access our specialist teaching rooms and spaces, such as our science laboratory, cooking rooms and art room. Students have also had a limited access to subject-specialist teaching resources and equipment, which are vital for the full delivery of many Key Stage 4 subjects. Many of our subject-specialist teachers have also been unable to deliver their subjects to multiple groups as they would have done in the past, due to the operation of class and corridor bubbles. Of course, in addition to these daily restrictions, we have also had significant disruption to learning, due to high levels of staff absence, class/corridor closures and the current whole-school closure, all of which have reduced the amount of time the students have been able to access face-to-face learning.

Whilst we have still been able to offer a broad and balanced curriculum from within the students' class bases, it is inevitable that the above restrictions have created significant barriers to teachers being able to provide the depth of learning required to meet the thresholds demanded by many accredited courses.

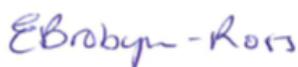
As a result, we have made the difficult decision to reduce the number of subjects that Year 11 students take accredited assessments for. Year 11s will only be entered for accredited assessments in **English** and **Mathematics**. These core subjects will be delivered by the students' form tutors, within each class's form base. These subjects have been prioritized because they promote essential, core skills that all students will require as they move towards adulthood. For those students hoping to move on to college next year, English and Mathematics certificates will be a basic expectation in most cases.

If you wish to discuss your child's accreditation in more detail, please feel free to contact their class teacher or myself. As the school office is now closed until January, you will need to make contact via email: office@meadowfield.kent.sch.uk.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our families for their support over these difficult months. Our staff have been working incredibly hard, doing all they can to maintain as much normality as possible for the children, and the support we have received from parents and carers has meant a great deal to us all.

I wish you all a safe and merry Christmas and a healthy and prosperous new year.

Yours faithfully,



Liz Brobyn-Ross
Assistant Principal of Subject-Led Learning