



**SIR JOHN DEANE'S  
SIXTH FORM COLLEGE  
1557**

**Thursday 7 January 2021**

Dear Parents and Year 13 Students

I fully recognise and understand that this is a time of great uncertainty for us all. We each have a role to play in ensuring that we navigate our collective way through with kindness, compassion and with purpose. The College is confident that it will meet the challenges with professionalism, clarity and with a keen focus on the happiness and success of students.

Mr Boden, Deputy Principal, Ms Foy, Assistant Principal, and I have recorded an assembly for you and I would encourage you to watch it in its entirety because we seek to give you as much information as we are able to and we outline the plan for remote education. Also see the attached sheet.

Crucially I ask that you:

- Understand that we do not yet have guidance, information or clarification from the Secretary of State for Education on the process he will ask schools and colleges to implement.
- Trust the College to work with integrity in all matters relating to Teacher Assessed Grades.
- Have compassion for teachers and progress mentors. We understand that you will have questions, however we cannot make promises, we cannot give you the certainty you crave simply because we do not have the information to give you definite answers.
- Allow teachers and progress mentors to do what they do best which is to teach and support students. Distraction and demands are not helpful at this time. Teaching will be high quality and support will be compassionate and meaningful.
- Continue to work with us, as so many of you have always done in partnership. We must deliberately seek to invest in positive relationships with the shared goal of doing the best we can for students.

The College stands with you and essentially we stand for you. Rest assured we will continue to work tirelessly on behalf of year 13 students.

Year 13 students will feel a range of emotions and the lack of certainty may result in low confidence and present challenges to mental health. Parents must act as a positive filter, your reassurance, love and measured response to events and news have never been more important.

Year 13 students have time, two academic terms ahead to engage with teachers, complete their A Level and BTEC programmes, to enjoy learning and working hard. We can make the very best of this experience by working together. We will be ready to welcome you back to College as soon as we can and we wholeheartedly look forward to that time.

I will update you as information and guidance comes from central government.

Please do ensure that you follow the national lockdown rules, if we all accept the very difficult rules required, we make our contribution to the safety and wellbeing of our community.

With my warmest wishes.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'K Kirkwood'.

Miss K Kirkwood  
**Principal**