

Ark Putney Academy
Pullman Gardens
London
SW15 3DG



Principal: Ms Alison Downey

Preparing every student to be a pillar of any community

5th January, 2021

Dear parent/carer/student

We understand that for years 11 and 13, the news last night will have been particularly difficult to hear with regards to schools moving to remote learning in key exam years particularly after the disruption of last year.

However, I think the messaging in the media around examinations not going ahead in the summer may have created the wrong impression. Some people have reported that there will be no formal examinations for year 11 and 13. **It is important to note that we do not believe this to be the case**

I'd like to restate the wording from Prime Minister Boris Johnson:

"It's not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal. The Education Secretary will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements."

It is our understanding 'alternative arrangements' will include some subject examination papers, along with teacher-based assessments including mock examinations and independent tasks, coursework / non-examined assessments. It will take time for the Education Secretary to work through the new arrangements and we will let you know as soon as possible what those arrangements are. Undoubtedly we will be asked to feed into this process and we will be obliged to make fair and just decisions regarding whether we think that you have worked hard enough to achieve your grades.

In the meantime, our stance and very clear message is that we are continuing online just as we would do in the building. Attendance, punctuality, effort and participation are all essential. Students should continue to work as if exams are going ahead. Y13 must continue to lay firm academic foundations for University and beyond. Y11 must also prepare for post-16 study, where we anticipate baseline assessment in order to access courses. Non-engagement and 'giving up' are simply not an option and we are now more ready than ever to support you in your remote learning with live lessons in all subjects.

We are hoping to return to school after the half-term break and we want you to be ready to resume your preparations for the assessments no matter what they look like – Please take advantage of what we will be putting in place and remember that every day of learning counts even if it is by remote means.

Best wishes

Ms Downey

Principal