



**Queen Katharine  
Academy**

A proud member of



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Dear Student,

I am writing to you following the announcement from the Prime Minister on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> Jan and the subsequent announcement from the Education Secretary on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan about your exams. I understand that you may be feeling confused and worried about what was said, and I want to assure you that all of the staff at QKA will work to support you through this difficult period. We found out the information at the same time as you and we will work with you to help you to be in the best possible position to take the next steps in your education.

Even though we are now in a period of lockdown, it is vital that you continue to engage with your teachers and the online learning. It is crucial that you are still working to the best of your ability, submitting work and asking for help when you need it.

Whilst I realise that you may feel frustrated by the changes, now is not the time to give up on your learning. You should focus on the next steps that you want to take and keep working hard so that you can reach your goals.

It is very important to note that, despite the messaging in the media, not all exams have been cancelled at this point. The Prime Minister stated that, "We recognise that this will mean it is 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". In addition, to this, Michael Gove, Minister for the Cabinet Office, has stated that "...one of the things about assessment is that it necessarily involves those students doing particular tasks which will be assessed and...it's important to make sure that we have a fair system, and that relies on making sure that we have appropriate methods of assessing the knowledge and skills the children have acquired".

The Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, on Wednesday, made an announcement to the House of Commons that confirms: summer examinations in GCSE and A Levels will NOT take place.' Instead, he stated the Government will 'trust in the teachers'. Over the next few weeks, we will receive guidance on how to submit 'Teacher Assessed Grades'.

Please be assured that all your hard work will be recognised, we will ensure that. You must continue to work to the best of your ability so that you can achieve the grades that you deserve.

Please do not hesitate to contact your teachers or Progress Leader if you need any help. Every weekday between 2.15 and 2.45 your tutor will be available to support you on teams. I look forward to seeing you all in the Academy again, once lockdown is over. Please do look after yourselves.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs L Mayes**  
**Principal**



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