

19 March 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

Year 11 & Year 13 update

Following the announcement yesterday that the exams scheduled for Year 11 and Year 13 students will not take place some people were quick to say that this meant all of the efforts put in by students over the last two years were going to waste. We completely disagree with this and have held assemblies with the Year 11 and 13 students today to explain why.

At Prudhoe Community High School, we have always said that qualifications are only part of what we do but that the experience that young people have as students in our school helps to make them the young adults that we are all rightly proud of. All PCHS students build up a rich bank of memories that last a lifetime.

For some it will be the memory of playing sports for a school team, performing in a concert, taking part in a school show or their experience during Year 9 activities week. For others it will be the opportunities to meet and question employers during World of Work week, the excitement generated by a charity bake sale, that memorable school trip or the poignance of the whole school falling silent on Remembrance Day. For all students there will be memories of that teacher who gave them the help that they needed, the member of staff that helped get them through a difficult day, the friendships that grew as they did and those that will last a lifetime.

On top of all of this there is the knowledge that they have acquired through all of their subjects. The basic skills of English and Maths which they will use every day without thinking, the ability to argue their point backed up by evidence developed in History and the understanding of how the countries around the world depend on each other from Geography. Having the ability to understand the rapidly developing world around them driven by Science and Technology, the skills to greet people from other countries in their own language, understanding their culture and beliefs and the knowledge to appreciate the skills of others in the fields of Art, Drama and Music.

Finally, of course there are the studies that they have done over the last two years, the hard work, the hours of revision, mock exams and more revision. This and the development that it has brought about in their abilities has been witnessed by staff and will be needed by students whatever their next steps after this academic year. We do not know yet how qualifications are going to be awarded, but we will play our part in whatever way we are asked to.

It is very clear to all of us that none of the hard work of the students has been in vain and it will not go to waste. However, in these unprecedented circumstances the next few months will look very different for Year 11 and 13 students to previous cohorts.

Yours faithfully

The Staff at Prudhoe Community High School