



LITTLE ILFORD SCHOOL

COURAGE • COMMITMENT • COMPASSION

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Co-Headteachers:

Ian Wilson

Helen Marriott

Hello Year 11s,

26th March 2020

I am so sorry that, because of a bereavement, I missed what seems likely to be your final week. I want to take this opportunity to say how proud of you I am. I have said to you all along that you are the best year group that we've had in my time at Little Ilford. Indeed, I'm actually sorry that the government is suspending the school league tables this year, because I know that your performance in the exams would have seen us soar upwards! It's such a shame that we've had to abandon the normal round of leaving events, but the government is right to take this action and we will be able to organise something when this is over.

So, what do the next few months have in store for you? As I write, Ofqual, the government agency for exams, and the exam boards have not yet published the strategy that we will be expected to follow to grade your work. As soon as I have that information, I will let you know. In the meantime, assume that all of the work that you are doing at home is vital. What we know is that teachers will be asked to suggest a grade that fairly reflects the work that you have put in and the aptitude that you have shown, backed by evidence. So, impress your teachers with your commitment over the weeks to come. We also know that the government is planning an opportunity, early in the new academic year, for you to sit exams if you are unhappy with the grades that you receive. However, the progress of the current pandemic may make this impractical. My advice is to make sure that you don't take your foot off the pedal now, so that you can guarantee yourself the best possible future. You need to build up a portfolio of your work in each subject, and ensure that it is of the highest possible standard, so that you are well prepared.

Working from home is tough, as there are so many distractions. Try to establish a routine. Get up in good time, and certainly not later than 8.30 when school would usually begin. Divide your time logically between your subjects. It would be a good idea to follow what would have been your timetable for the day. Learning is what keeps us mentally alive, and it's so important, in this time of social isolation, that you keep yourself constructively occupied. Use the resources that are signposted on the school website under the 'Parents and Students' tab. If you have technical problems with the Google Classroom resources, please email the school so that we can help you.

In the meantime, I send you and your families all of our good wishes for the next few months and for your future. You are an exceptional group of young men and women and I have the highest of hopes for you. I'll leave you with a quote from Gandhi that sums up what I'd want to say to you.

"You must be the change that you want to see in the world."

All the best,

Mr Wilson

“... an excellent ambassador for community cohesion within the locality - OFSTED”

