



February 4, 2021

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Hope this letter finds you well!

The need for us to adapt to change quickly and find a balanced state, continues and I would like to thank you for your ongoing support as we entered the recent 100% remote learning phase, to ease pressure on resources and respond to the then, growing numbers of close contacts.

That decision has worked well, and we are settled back into learning patterns again.

We appreciate that some families will continue to hold children at home, and we are confident that our delivery to 'remote' and 'on-site' are the same.

Recently, I visited some Year 12 classes where a significant number of students were remaining at home. I asked after the progress of those at school and those at home and all evidence pointed to 'no difference'. This gives me great confidence that when we work together, we can make whichever model work.

### **Wellbeing**

In a recent conversation with a staff member, she recounted a conversation she had had with a Y7 student, who was excited to be at school. Rating the year as a 12/10, this young student could find no fault with what she was experiencing every day. A small example and great reminder that our combined efforts are serving a positive purpose to someone!

### **Mock Exams**

I acknowledged the Y11 and Y13 students in my last letter and will again extend my thanks to the Y13 and staff as their session was disrupted for two days due to closure. Our students remained focused and intent on achieving their best, regardless of the situation. Whilst achievements in these exams are of paramount importance to them, I firmly believe life lessons are equally valuable. Resilience, focus, adaptability – all key skills for a successful future.

And while we would have wished for a smoother ride for them, we can only play the hand we are dealt – and make the most of that. Our young adults are learning this quickly.

### **External Exams**

We continue to monitor communication from exam authorities about upcoming exams. Assistant Principal, Helen Hurford (Y11) and Assistant Principal (Post 16), Amy Cooper (Y13) always try to communicate to you in quick time.

Rest assured, you are and will be, kept up to date with exam board decisions.



Our intention, as is theirs, is to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to show their 'best selves', academically.

When you reflect on last year and the students' outcomes, our Y11 and Y13 results were overall the best they have been – this affirms the above notion. We expect the same intention for this year's cohorts.

Y11 parents will have received communication from Ms Hurford, today, with an update outlining all relevant exam boards decisions to date.

### Academic Review Days

A response to the current learning environment and the need to sustain communication with you prompted us to increase the number of Academic Review Days, this year, for every year level. Please save the dates below for the different year levels. Attendance and feedback have been significantly positive, and we look forward to keeping you updated with progress and the next steps.

### Parent Communication

For existing WSO parents and new families, please refer to this [link](#) from the school website, to view earlier communications from Primary Principal, Nathan Sadler and myself.

### Re-enrollment

Re-enrollment for the next Academic Year will open on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup>. While we fully understand that there continues to be a great deal of uncertainty that may make it difficult to confirm plans moving forward, we would be grateful if you could kindly confirm your intentions.

Families will receive a system generated email which will ask you to confirm yes or no. If you are unsure at this time, please speak with our Parent Relations Executive (PRE), Juliet Freeman, who will be able to support you further: [pre\\_wso@gemsedu.com](mailto:pre_wso@gemsedu.com)

### Key Dates

<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Years 11 and 13 Reports available online
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February</b>	Academic Review Day (Years 7, 8 & 9) – all Secondary school students access their learning from home
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	International Day
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March</b>	World Book Day Virtual Options Fair for Year 8 (during this week)



<b>Sunday 14th March</b>	Academic Review Day (Years 10 & 12) – all Secondary school students access their learning from home
<b>Sunday 14th March</b>	STEAM Week (1-week period)
<b>Tuesday 16th March</b>	Academic Review Day (Years 11 & 13) – all Secondary school students access their learning from home
<b>Tuesday 23rd March</b>	PSHE Day 'Boosting Self-esteem'
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 Reports available online

As ever, I welcome your feedback. Please email me on [a.kaifong\\_wso@gemsedu.com](mailto:a.kaifong_wso@gemsedu.com)

Wishing you a safe weekend.

Sincerely

Andy Kai Fong  
Secondary Principal