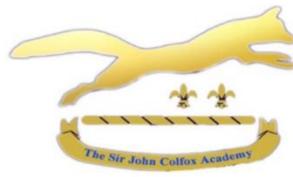


The Sir John Colfox Academy



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

Acting Headteacher: Mr Mike Hoffmann BSc Hons, PGCE, NPQH

April 2019

Dear Parents

RE: Coursework and Special Consideration Applications

Thank you for your patience over the last few weeks as we have been working to restore our ICT systems following the cyber-attack on 25 February 2019. We have now restored full functionality and I would like to update you on the plans we have made to ensure that students in Year 11 are not unduly affected by the loss of coursework which occurred when our server data was encrypted. You will be aware from Mr Herbert's letter on 1 March 2019 that Product Design and Food Preparation and Nutrition coursework was lost in the attack. Students were also unable to continue working on their PE coursework, although fortunately the work was not 'lost' as it had already been printed in draft form by the majority of students. A small amount of Music coursework was also affected, although this has largely been recovered **as it was stored on iMac hard-drives**, rather than on the main server.

I am liaising closely with the exam boards about applications for special consideration for all students affected by the loss of coursework. Every exam board has a set of procedures in place which are applied in cases where a student has been fully prepared for the examination but their performance in the examination or assessment has been affected by factors beyond their control, such as ill health or a family crisis. Coursework loss is covered under these special considerations procedures. Typically, an exam board will look at each individual student's performance in exam and/or coursework components and project a grade based on their scores in other units (those unaffected by the application for special consideration). This is particularly the case where coursework has been lost, or where students are absent from exams but have completed other units. The vast majority of our students have, however, completed some work in each course which can be marked, and should therefore be used to count towards the final grade.

Based on the information above you will appreciate the level of complexity involved in the special consideration applications that we are making for each individual student in the affected subjects. Each exam board has been made aware of the specific consequences of the cyber-attack on our students' coursework, and we are working closely with the senior administrators from their special consideration teams to deliver a fair outcome for each of our students, one which enables them to receive credit for work they have completed so far in their courses.

Please contact me if you would like to discuss the contents of this letter further. We will not know the outcome of the special consideration applications until students receive their GCSE results on

22 August 2019. In the meantime, we wish every student the best of luck in the forthcoming examinations, and will continue to support them as they enter the final stage of the year.

Yours sincerely

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