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To All S4-6 Parents & Carers

Jonathan M Lothian
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Contact: Mr J Lothian

Our ref :JL/COVID19

Your Ref :

Date: 19th March 2020

Dear Parents and carers

Final Day of School Opening – Friday 20th March 2020

I am writing to in additional update on the current situation in relation to COVID-19 and Perth Academy. These are indeed challenging times for all of us. I want to say how proud I am of the staff and young people this week in the manner that they have responded to the challenges facing us.

I recognise that our young people will be experiencing a whole range of emotions at this time, none more so than our young people preparing for exams who are suddenly confronted both with the reality of school closure and the cancellation of examinations. For many young people this means an unnatural end to their formal time at Perth Academy.

It has come to my attention on the grapevine and in student chatter that some of our students are planning a “muckup” day tomorrow, Friday 20th March. Regrettably, last year several of our students marked their final departure from school by participating in behaviour that was wholly unacceptable and extremely disruptive to the health and safety of students and staff on campus. The combination of incidents that occurred caused significant disruption to the good working order of the school and placed the wellbeing and safety of young people at risk. I am sure that you will agree with me that this behaviour and its impact is completely intolerable within our community at any time, and especially in the context of the pressures we are currently under. Teaching staff are united in their condemnation of such behaviour and we are united in our disbelief that any of our young people would consider such behaviour in this of all weeks.

I have spoken today to the S4, S5 and S6 year groups to thank them for their understanding and support and to reassure them that we will do everything in our power to secure their exam attainment and support their next steps.

In doing so, I have also made my expectations clear in relation to “muck-up”. While I am confident that our departing students will heed this message and will respond accordingly at this time, I am seeking your support in reinforcing this message and counselling any young person intent on such a course of action. While we hope that it will not be necessary, we intend to respond to any such disruption in the strongest possible terms and any student choosing to behave in a way that causes harm to others, creates a health & safety issue, disrupts the good working order of the school or causes wilful damage can expect to face one or more possible sanctions including exclusion from the end of year prom, exclusion from school or police involvement as appropriate.

I would be grateful for your support in reinforcing this message with your child in anticipation of a positive response from our young people.

Yours Sincerely

J Lothian
Rector