

# School Closure

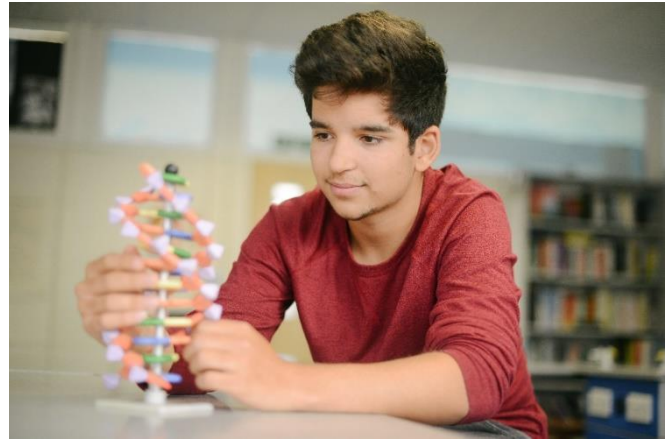
## Advice for Year 11 and Year 13 students



Each of our students are different and will have varying plans from this point forward. Students will most likely fit into one of the four scenarios below:

**Scenario 1 – I don't want to rule out taking the exams I had been preparing for when I have the opportunity in the Autumn (probably September) or in the summer of 2021.** You may feel you fall into this scenario because you are concerned that the grade you will be awarded in the summer will not be what you need or what you had hoped for or

just because you are not comfortable with the idea of not being able to sit an exam you had been preparing so hard for. Firstly, don't spend time worrying about what the grade will be – that is largely out of your hands now because it is based on a range of sources of evidence and information. Secondly, it is really important that we look at education as being about much more than preparing for and sitting an exam and being given a grade. Much of what you have learnt will help you later on in life in one way or another, be it in a job or further study (or even just a pub quiz, when they are open again!) and not just English and maths.



On this basis, don't just stop studying and learning. The immediate pressure is off which is helpful in the current circumstances, but why not continue with a lighter study schedule aimed at identifying the areas of the specification you are less comfortable with or finding out more about something you were interested in or that you didn't fully understand when you first encountered it. If nothing else, you have been given extra time to prepare for the exams if you choose this route but still plan as we have been suggesting for some

time. Do also consider the advice for Scenario 3 below in the case that the requirement to have achieved a grade 4 in English and maths remains. It is also worth spending time continuing study of GCSE courses you plan to take A Levels (or equivalent) in because the sounder your prior knowledge, the easier it will be to learn more and therefore make progress!

**Scenario 2 – I want to focus on my A Level courses and get ahead on work for these – this is where I feel I will be best off directing the time I spend studying.** This is a sensible approach and the Post-16 team will be providing transition packages that will be available shortly after the scheduled Easter break. These will cover A Levels and equivalent courses that we deliver at Callington Community College. This information (staff health providing) should be made available for you by Friday 17th April. In the case of A Levels (or equivalent courses) delivered at other centres, please make direct contact with them. If you can't quite get what you want or need, you can still explore and get familiar with the published exam specifications. Information from our Sixth Form will be distributed soon relating to offers of places for September and how to use your time between now

and then to ensure you get a head start on your A Level courses including information about how we intend to assess what you have learnt at an early point in the course.



**Scenario 3 – I want to put this all behind me and focus on my college course or apprenticeship.** Firstly, remember that, regardless of what you will do in terms of further study from September onwards, it is likely that the requirement to retake English and/or maths will remain in the case that a grade 4 isn't achieved (we won't be providing the grades we supply to the DfE at least until we receive further advice). Consider whether you are likely to need to continue to work towards a grade 4 assuming it remains a requirement or even a 5 for a university course or higher education course in the future and in this case, time dedicated to English and maths will still be time well spent. Beyond this, taking time to prepare for the next stage in your development should focus on ensuring you are as well informed as possible as to the design of the course or apprenticeship you intend to study.

#### **Option 4 – I am really unsure as to what to do for the best.**

Don't rush into anything – take a step back and plan – you have plenty of time. If any part of your body is telling you to drop anything school or work-related to become a full time Netflixer or XBoxer/PS4er, then keep that as a reward for hard work. A compromise for those of you torn between the life you had envisaged and promised yourself as a reward after the exams and the knowledge that you shouldn't spend between now and September doing nothing is to divide your time between the two – just as you have been advised to revise – short sharp bursts with rewards in between. Have a read again through Scenarios 1-3 in this document and there will be elements that are relevant for all of you here. Think clearly about what you want to achieve (see below) and make yourself a plan mixing study and relaxation – you are of an age where you can also provide a lot of support to your own family too – don't underestimate the opportunity here to learn a new skill (or practice an existing one) that can help out. The most important thing in all of this is that you leave yourself the ability to make choices – choices about what you study, choices about what jobs you can apply for, choices about the sort of work you do and most importantly choice about your future that you control!

#### **What do you want to achieve? Which Scenario's advice should I heed?**

"I want to get the very best grades possible on my chosen A Level course" – Scenarios 1 & 2.

"I want to be clear about what I need to know to help me on my course / apprenticeship for next year and to give myself the best start possible" – Scenario 3.

"I want to make sure I don't just waste up to 5 months of my life, I know I should do some studying" – Scenarios 1, 2, 3 or 4 but think out a plan that meets your needs – talk to your parents and friends.

"I want to make sure that, if I am disappointed with my GCSE results come the end of July, I can sit one or more exams to improve on my awarded grade" – Scenario 1.

"I was unlikely to get a grade 4 in English and / or maths and had never been predicted one" – first paragraph of Scenario 3 and Scenario 1.