

4<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

### **Support for you in the months ahead**

I am writing specifically to our Year 11 students as we want to ensure they are really well-supported at this unusual and challenging time. As you will all know, formal Year 11 exams will not be running this summer. However, the vast majority of SBL Year 11 students will be going on to further study at SBL Post-16 or other centres, so it is really important to continue learning and preparing for the future.

To support this, in addition to the resources in the Year 11 Pathways Google Classroom, we have signed up all of our Year 11 students to GCSEPod. This service is free to you; SBL Academy will pay for it. The service will allow our students to benefit from outstanding preparation material to ensure that everyone is ready for the next level of study in September, whether that is A-levels, Level 3 vocational courses or Level 2 top-up courses. Wherever our students choose to go, and whatever they choose to study, we want to help them be really well-prepared and confident to take on the next challenge.

A further advantage of GCSEPod is that students can maintain their GCSE learning over the summer. As you have been informed, if students are not happy with the grade awarded in August for any of their GCSE/Level 2 subjects, they will be able to take exams in the autumn. GCSEPod will help your son or daughter keep their learning up-to-date and fresh in their minds if they might want to take up this opportunity.

We recommend that you work with your child to sign up to GCSEPod, to help them successfully activate their account and encourage them to make use of this amazing free resource throughout the summer. Once the account has been activated, students can browse the GCSEPod library and create their own playlists – just as they would when they're listening to music, as well as view GCSE-level and Post 16 preparation material.

To find out more ways for parents and carers to support our students using GCSEPod, please visit [www.gcsepod.com/parents](http://www.gcsepod.com/parents) where you'll find lots more information and resources.

All of our Year 11 students are now registered, so all they need to do is activate their account by following the instructions below.

1. 1) Go to [www.gcsepod.com](http://www.gcsepod.com) and click "**Login**" in the top right-hand corner
2. 2) Click "**New here? Get started.**"
3. 3) Select "**Student**"
4. 4) Enter student **name, date of birth** and **the school name – "SBL Academy"**.
5. 5) Create a **username, password**, and a **password hint** to help them remember the password.

We are sure that our students (and parents/carers) will find GCSEPod really useful in the period ahead and we really hope to celebrate success with you in August and then as a member of our Post 16 community.

Yours sincerely



Mr S White  
**Vice Principal**

