

An important message from your school

Dear student,

Soon you will be sitting your exams. You may be feeling worried about them and wondering whether you'll be 'good enough'. We want you to know something: your exams will give you marks for skills and knowledge you have been learning at school, but that's all they do. They don't measure things you are good at outside of school and they can't measure you as a person or test all the amazing ways in which you shine.

You may be really good at computer games, at sport, or being a really important member of a group. You may be good at thinking about the suffering in the world and saving the planet and wanting to do something about that. You may be good at acting, drawing or helping your family. You may be good at making people laugh. You are probably a really good friend, caring when your friend is unhappy, or listening to them when they're down. You may have amazing ideas and passions about something outside of school. Exams can't measure these things.

We also know that there are a lot of brilliant people out there who didn't do so well in their school exams but who went on to turn their good ideas into amazing things in the world. So never forget that your dreams about how you want to use your life are far, far bigger than these exams. Some of you will be having those dreams already; for others, dreams of living your life, than all the grains of sand in the Sahara desert. So dream about what you want for *your* life and how you want to go college or university or are not sure about it, you never forget that life is an amazing gift. In fact you have less chance of being on this earth, For those of you who want to rush if the time is not right now. Remember, there are lots of routes

time. Lots of people do it later in life when they are in their 20s, 30s, 40s and even later. So don't feel you have to rush if the time is not right now. Remember, there are lots of routes to loving your work life not just the college or university route. For a lot of people, 'Work is more fun than fun' (Noel Coward). Aim to get work like that!

Don't let a failure in something tell you who you are. Most people who are very successful at running their own business have failed lots of times. As Winston Churchill said, 'Failure is not fatal, it is the courage to continue that counts.'

And if you're worried about not being good enough, remember – the qualities that make you so special aren't and can't be measured by these exams. In these qualities you will always be *more than* 'good enough'.

So of course, do your best in your exams, but always remember that exams are looking at a set of skills and knowledge that *you can do*; they don't test you on who *you are*. You are much, much more than your exam results, and you have a special place in the school and in the world.

We are proud to have you in our school.

Warmest best wishes,

From all the staff at your school

