**Sixth Form Stress**

**During these unprecedented and confusing times, many different aspects of life have been thrown into turmoil. In light of current events this year’s pupils, taking their GCSE’s, are under an enormous amount of pressure than the previous years; everything they do has a lot more repercussions.**

The transition between year 11 and year 12 can be daunting at the best of times. To help with the decision process, all Sixth forms and colleges hold open evenings so you can travel around the school and decide on whether it is the right place for you to take your next step. However, due to the unforeseen circumstances, sixth forms are not able to do them this year. Alternatively, the sixth forms and colleges, are doing their tours and presentations via video. The year 11’s are going to find deciding a lot harder, as when you are watching a video, things are staged and you don’t get a personal feel about where you will be studying for the next two years. Some of the videos may have been edited to show the higher learning institutions in their very best light; you can not see the teachers and students’ personalities and the truth on how the school operates. When it comes down to making an informed decision on the sixth form, there may not be any flaws as the videos don’t allow you to see any failings.

There is a cloud of uncertainty over the 2020 GCSE exams as people feel as though the students have missed too much learning; to make them catch up would be a very hard task. Some of the countries within the United Kingdom (Scotland and Wales) have cancelled their exams. This adds an extreme amount of pressure to the students as their mock exam results, could essentially be the final grades they leave school with. With the six months of school missed, these mocks are going to be very challenging for the year 11's as there may be big gaps in their knowledge. Most schools are hosting interventions and giving the year 11’s supplies to help close this gap. Sadly, some schools aren’t doing anything to help their students or have left this too late, so students are left at an unfair disadvantage. This is an issue because to get into sixth forms and colleges they all have different grade boundaries to be accepted. It is clear that due to the current climate, grades are not going to be as high as previous years meaning, achieving the grades for sixth forms and colleges is going to be very difficult.