

6th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the announcement from the Government this morning we have decided to cancel the vocational exams taking place over the next two weeks. We appreciate that many students will have spent time preparing for these exams over the last few weeks but we do not feel that it is safe for so many students to be together or traveling on public transport at the current time. We have been told by the department for education that in order to reduce the spread of the virus we must minimise the number of children and adults who are in school as much as possible and so we do not wish to contravene this advice by gathering large groups of students and exam invigilators together for extended periods of time. Additionally, we know from speaking to parents, that many students have been extremely anxious, both about the national lockdown and about these exams and so we do not feel it is fair to subject them to the stressful formal exams process at the current time.

We are expecting further announcements from Ofqual about alternative methods of assessment and we will, of course, communicate these to you as soon as the situation becomes clearer. Please rest assured that no student will be disadvantaged by not sitting these exams and that we will all work our absolute hardest to make sure that they achieve the best possible final results to allow them to take the next steps in their education.

One possible alternative method of assessment is by using teacher assessed grades, these will be formulated based on work and assessments already completed and work that students do over the next few weeks and months. For this reason, it is vital that your child continues to attend all live lessons on Teams, as per their timetable, and complete all of the work assigned by their teachers to the highest possible standard.

If you or your child have any concerns or queries about this, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Ms Sally Pearson
Assistant Principal
Exams and Assessment