

For the attention of parents/carers and students due to take vocational exams this week and next week.

Wednesday 6 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and students,

Further to my letter yesterday regarding the external vocational exams due to take place this week and next, we have been carefully considering further guidance released yesterday evening and this morning from both the Department for Education and Pearson. **In light of this guidance we have taken the decision to cancel the planned external vocational exams in January.**

We have this morning, received written confirmation from Pearson, stating clearly that no learner who does not sit the exam will be disadvantaged. They have stated:

- we will certificate any learner who is unable to take their exams and has enough evidence to receive a certificate that they need for progression;
- learners unable to take their assessment this January may be able to take their assessment at a later date. If that is not possible, we will put in place arrangements to ensure no learner is disadvantaged.

I fully recognise and understand the frustration this rapidly changing situation is causing students and families, along with their teachers, and it is regrettable that schools have been asked to make this decision. We will continue to evaluate all exam options for students through the spring and summer term in light of the guidance expected from the Department for Education. We are expecting some further information regarding the summer exams this week following Gavin Williamson's statement in the House of Commons this afternoon.

We are conscious that the period of education for students close to or sitting exams since March 2020 has been particularly disruptive. Please be reassured that in all our decisions we continue to act in the best interests of our young people, ensuring they are duly rewarded for their hard work and dedication. We will always seek to provide the best possible preparation and environment for all our young people to perform at their very best, giving them the best possible chance of success.

We have scheduled a video conference call for Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students to share this information at the end of P5/3:10 today. The call will be recorded and shared should you be unable to join us live. To join the call, [click this link](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.

Best wishes

Justin Humphreys
Headteacher