

"Leaders, staff and governors share a passionate commitment to raise the aspirations and achievement of all the students who attend the school."
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7th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,



I hope you and your families remain in good health and are trying to adjust to recent Government announcements of national school closures and the move to remote learning for all students.

Please note that we are still open for children of key workers and children deemed vulnerable.

I am writing to you today to update you on **BTEC examinations for students in Years 11, 12 and 13.**

You will be aware by now that GCSE and A level examinations have been cancelled this year with school assessed grades being awarded instead; I will write to you soon with details of how these grades will be generated as soon as we have the guidance.

Up until 2 days ago, it was the Government's stated intention that all BTEC exams should go ahead in January and February. Yesterday we received confirmation that these exams could go ahead at the discretion of schools and colleges; in short, the decision to run these exams or not has been left to us.

Below I include a section of guidance from the BTEC awarding body, Pearson.

"We want to ensure that you are supported by us regardless of the choice that is made by your school or college on whether exams take place. If your college or school decides to offer exams, you will be able to run your external assessments as planned and if your school or college decides not to offer vocational exams, we have agreed the following with Ofqual and the DfE to ensure that no learner is disadvantaged.

- 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"*

Following discussion yesterday with colleagues I have taken the decision that these exams will not go ahead in January and February. There are several factors that have contributed to this decision; they include.

1. Students preparation for these exams has been seriously hindered and disrupted by a variety of different factors, including both pupil and staff absence from school due to illness and/or self-isolation.



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2. Bringing large numbers of students into school to sit together to do lengthy exams presents a considerable challenge to our risk assessment and the potential safety of students.
3. Awarding bodies and the DFE (Department for Education) are assuring us that students who do not sit exams will not be disadvantaged in any way.
4. A fair and equitable approach for students in line with the national picture.

I hope that you agree that this is the right decision for our students. Over the next few days teachers will be discussing this with students and planning the way forward for the rest of the school year. Last year, when these exams were cancelled, school assessed grades were awarded. Please rest assured that we will continue to work as hard as ever with your sons and daughters to ensure that we are able to award them with the best possible grades and the work that students have completed in preparation for these exams will still be important in awarding grades. I will, of course, update you with any further information that we receive.

Please do not forget that we are here to try and help you as much as we can so please let us know how we may support you further.

Thank you for your continued support and please stay safe and healthy.

Kindest regards.



Mr Clayton
Headteacher