

Thursday 7 January 2021

Dear students and parents/guardians,

In response to the recent announcement by the Department for Education, we have taken the decision based on safety, health & wellbeing and fairness to cancel the vocational and technical exams scheduled to run from 11 to 19 January 2021. The Department for Education has told us that the policy intent is that no student will be disadvantaged by not sitting these exams.

It is with a really heavy heart that we have arrived at this decision and not one we have taken lightly. Given the Government guidance to 'stay at home', high local infection rates and the Education Secretary clarifying that they will not be asking students to sit GCSE and A levels, we feel it is only fair to our students sitting vocational and technical exams to cancel them. We know that you will have worked hard and diligently for these exams, but do feel that not sitting them now is in your best interests both from a health and safety and academic perspective.

You should of course continue to attend your online timetabled lessons and work to the best of your ability on your current work and assignments. The Department for Education has not yet issued guidance on how grades will be awarded, although they have stated that students will not be disadvantaged in these circumstances. **Please do not contact your teachers seeking information on this - as soon as we have the details we will inform you.**

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

Best wishes,

Catherine Cole
Principal