

12 January 2021

Dear students and parents/guardians,

As you are aware, in response to guidance from the Department for Education, the College took the decision to cancel the vocational and technical exams scheduled to run in January 2021. Currently, there is no clarification as to whether students will be able to take these assessments at a later date, or whether a teacher assessed grading process may be implemented. Once we have more detailed information from the Department for Education and Ofqual, we will communicate this to you.

We understand that you have worked hard in preparation for these external assessments, and many of you will be disappointed by not having had the opportunity to sit them. Once the assessments have been sat nationally, we anticipate that the awarding bodies will release the exam papers to schools and colleges to use for teaching and learning. **As a result, subject areas will be looking to issue these papers, as deemed appropriate, for timed assessments.**

With continued modular assessments for vocational courses, the timing and nature of these assessments will be carefully considered by each subject area to ensure they do not hinder further workloads. These timed assessments will provide you with a valuable experience and prepare you for any future assessments. It will give you an opportunity to demonstrate the work, revision and preparation you have put in since your mock or previous assessments. It could also be used as a piece of evidence in any teacher assessed grading process, alongside other activities and assessments you have undertaken.

Your subject teachers will be in touch with you in due course to explain how and when these assessments will take place. Once you have this information, please discuss any questions or concerns you may have with them.

Best wishes,

Rob Savory

Director of Teaching and Quality - Vocational Curriculum