

Dear Parent

Re: BTEC Examination January 7th 2021- Postponed

Following further announcements from the government late last night we wanted to update you in the situation with the BTEC/vocational examinations due to take place this month and early in February. The current guidance from the government is that '*Schools and colleges can continue with the vocational and technical exams that are due to take place in January, where they judge it right to do so.*' What this means is that schools must make the decision about whether to go ahead with the exams or to cancel them. However, further information received 06.01.2021 from Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) is that it would be important for vocational and technical qualifications which require a "licence to practise" to go ahead, for example an electrician. The music BTEC course does not fall into this category.

We spent considerable time yesterday consulting with our teaching staff, senior staff and senior leaders at other local schools. We wanted to ensure we made the right decision for our students, both in terms of their safety, their wellbeing and their academic progress. In addition, we want to support the national lockdown by not encouraging staff and students to travel/use public transport wherever possible. In reviewing all of this information and in light of the rapidly changing situation we have taken the very difficult decision to **not go ahead with the exam.**

Please pass on this information to your child.

We understand that many students may be disappointed as they will have spent time preparing and revising for their exams; however, we want to ensure that all students are fully equipped and able to sit exams under appropriate conditions without additional pressure or anxiety.

We will now work to ensure that your child continues to receive high quality learning and assessment opportunities throughout lockdown and over the rest of this academic year. As and when we are clear on exam arrangements for the summer assessments, we will provide your child with the opportunity to sit them and will build in appropriate time and support to ensure they are ready and able to achieve. It is absolutely vital that your child continues to work hard on any assessments your teacher gives you.

According to the latest updated from Pearsons exam board,

- *A grade will be awarded for 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, Pearson will put in place arrangements to ensure you are not disadvantaged.*

We are awaiting clarification on how the current period of remote learning may affect assessment and examination of your qualifications for this academic year and we encourage your child to pay particular attention to the standard and quality of the work they produce and to remain fully engaged and committed to your learning during this period of lockdown. We will work with all students to ensure that they continue to have every opportunity to succeed and achieve to the best of their abilities.

This is obviously a fast-changing situation and we will contact you with further details if there are any subsequent changes.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Karen Hand', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Karen Hand

Interim Headteacher