



6th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE and A level examinations this summer

You will probably be aware that today the Secretary of State for Education announced that public examinations for GCSEs and A levels are cancelled. At the moment the government has still to decide exactly how students will be assessed and awarded grades this summer. As mentioned by me to you yesterday I think it remains important that our Year 11 and Year 13 students continue to engage well in their remote learning to ensure they give themselves the best chance of success this summer, whatever the final decision is.

I am sorry for this ongoing uncertainty, but as I am sure you can appreciate, this is out of our control. In the meantime we have instructed staff not to enter into conversations with parents or students about potential outcomes this summer. They should only discuss what a student's current knowledge, understanding and skills are at this stage and not their final possible grade. What is important is that students continue to work hard as if they were to sit examinations. There may well still be some form of formal assessment in the months ahead linked to the final grade given. We await news from the government on this so that we can be clear with all concerned.

BTEC/vocational examinations in January

Unfortunately a decision had to be taken this morning not to run today's BTEC examination and others this week. This was in light of a very last minute change in government guidance stating that these examinations should go ahead where Schools judged it right to do so. In the absence of sufficient information on COVID-19 safety for students and invigilators, as well as the imminent announcement mentioned above we made the difficult decision not to run the examinations. The exam board has assured schools who do not offer the current examination they will put in place arrangements to ensure no learner is disadvantaged. A decision will be made about the upcoming Finance exams as soon as possible.

Remote learning

Mr Eynon, Deputy Head Teacher has shared a video with all students about how to access remote learning successfully and a Code of Conduct that must be followed by all students when taking part in live lessons online. The Code of Conduct is attached to this email for your reference.

Yours sincerely

Dr M J Airey
Head Teacher