

7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

**RE: January Vocational Exams - Update**

Further to my correspondence on the 5th January, I am writing to you with another update as a result of further information from the Government.

On Tuesday night the Government announced that students would, “no longer be required to sit the January vocational exams” and it would be at the discretion of the schools whether or not to enter students for the January vocational exams. The exam board, Pearson has provided further guidance “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.”

Consequently, we have made the decision to cancel all exams in January and February, as we have concluded it may seriously disadvantage your child if they were to sit these exams based on the following three factors:

1. Consultation with Subject Leaders regarding the current progress and position due to the lack of face-to-face teaching.
2. Consideration of lost learning time due to the current pandemic.
3. To alleviate the anxiety of students due to sit exams in such a difficult time.

Although we do not currently have information about what will replace these exams, the exam boards have categorically stated that, “no learner will be disadvantaged”.

As an Academy, our top priority is to ensure the hard work of our students is recognised with successful outcomes to afford them the opportunity to access their next steps with regards to their career choices.

We will of course communicate any further updates and information as and when we are made aware. Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Your sincerely

**Michelle Marshall**

**Assistant Principal**