



7 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

BTEC and Cambridge Technical Exams

Following the Secretary of State's announcement on Wednesday 6 January we have made the decision to cancel all of the BTEC and Cambridge Technical exams that were due to be taken this half term as detailed below:

- * Yr 13 Business - Unit 6: Principles of Management
- * Yr 12/13 Cambridge Technical Sport - Unit 1: Body systems & the effects of physical activity
- * Yr 13 IT - Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information
- * Yr13 IT - Unit 1: Information Technology Systems
- * Yr 13 Creative Digital Media Production - Unit 1: Media Representations

We have not taken this decision lightly. Following the first announcement on Tuesday 5 January, and subsequent information that has filtered through during yesterday and today, we have taken our time to carefully review the situation. I must re-iterate that any decision such as this is incredibly tough to make as we do not have full guidance on how these exams will be replaced and we have had to take our time to consider the consequences of this decision.

We are sorry that we have had to make this decision on behalf of our hard working students. However, we do not feel that, whilst we are under national lockdown restrictions, it would be right to ask students to come into school to sit these exams without having had the the face to face support and preparation that they would have received under normal circumstances. We also do not believe that the climate for examinations is right and do not want to put students through extra pressures at this time. We did allow a small number of students to sit a Creative Digital Media assessment over two days but we are unable to facilitate the remaining exams during the current climate.

At present it is not clear what process will now be put in place for the BTEC and Cambridge Technical qualifications, but when this has been finalised we will communicate this with you as soon as we can. It is likely that grades will be partly a centre assessment and partly coursework based, therefore it is essential that students are now consistently completing work to the highest possible standard.

GCSE and A level Examinations

These exams have now been cancelled by the Secretary of State and there will be further details on how students will be awarded grades at a later date. It is likely that this will include some kind of in school assessments and a centre assessed predication. Therefore, as above, it is now essential that students are consistently completing work to the highest possible standard.

We will keep you informed of any more developments.

Yours sincerely

Steven Reader
Assistant Principal

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Associate Assistant Principal: Director of Sixth Form