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Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

6th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and students,

Following the Government's announcement late yesterday evening, we have taken the decision to cancel the Btec examination that your child was due to sit tomorrow. Therefore, your child must remain at home and continue to follow their timetabled lessons.

The decision to do so has not been easy and I know that you / your child may be disappointed, having prepared for the exam. Until yesterday, schools had no choice but to continue the examinations, even though we had moved into a National Lockdown situation, with all but a small number of students allowed to attend and skeleton staffing of school. As I mentioned in my letter yesterday, this is because at the present time, we are all duty bound to reduce the spread of infection by staying at home wherever we can. We were shocked to hear from our Prime Minister that: the numbers of people currently under hospital care due to Covid-19 is 40% higher than last April; there is a very real risk that the NHS is going to be overwhelmed; that although he believes schools although safe in themselves, have been 'vectors of transmission' by children passing the infection across families.

This clearly caused concerns from a logistical point of view, with 65 students across two year group bubbles due to attend and sit the exam, requiring a minimum of 8 invigilators and additional adult scribes. With the vast majority of students and adults in the same exam hall, but some requiring close proximity work with a scribe, clearly the main consideration at the current time must be the safety of all and minimising the risk of virus transmission. Furthermore, we have received notification from some external invigilators that, due to the concerns surrounding virus transmission, that they are no longer able to provide invigilation.

Pearson UK, the exam provider has informed us of the following:

We have agreed the following with Ofqual and the DfE to ensure that no learner is disadvantaged:

- **We will certificate 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, we will put in place arrangements to ensure no learner is disadvantaged.**

Therefore, we will work with the guidance from Pearson accordingly to ensure that our students are not disadvantaged accordingly.

Once again, please accept our apology for the disruption to the planned examination.

Kind regards

John Parr

John Parr,

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