



6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Year 11 student / Parent / Carer

Following today's announcement by the DfE confirming that GCSEs are to be cancelled this year and that grades are to be determined by some sort of teacher assessment I am writing to you regarding the January vocational exams. The DfE have decided that these exams may proceed if individual centres are able to accommodate the administering of the exams safely.

It is our feeling, that as an exam centre, it would not be appropriate for students to sit these exams next week. The government and exam boards have made it very clear that no student will be disadvantaged for not sitting these exams. Given that we are in a National Lockdown, we feel that instructing students to attend these exams would expose both staff and students to any unnecessary risk that could potentially result in them catching Covid 19. We are also aware that many students will require access arrangements and in the current situation we would be in a difficult position to support students with a reader or scribe, due to social distancing.

However, we are aware that some students will feel extremely aggrieved by this situation having worked very hard to revise and prepare for the exams next week. Whilst we do not feel that sitting the exams will increase the final grades awarded to the students, we feel it is important that as a family you have the final say as to whether you would like to sit the exam, given the current situation.

If you would like to continue as planned and sit the Sports Studies/Creative iMedia exam on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January please complete the online form via the link below by 9am on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. We will then work with our exams team to ensure we can accommodate your wishes and make as safe as possible provision for administering the exams effectively. If we have not heard from you by 9am on Friday, we will withdraw you from the exam and the process to award your grade will be followed, as it will be for all other GCSE examinations.

I am sure you appreciate, that this was not the letter I was wanting to write, but, I have absolutely no doubt that in the future, when all this is behind us, our students will go on to be extremely successful in all they do.

Miss Smalley

Deputy Headteacher - Quality of Education

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=E308MRGAWUevSfJPOLjgFEV4Nep2YU1LnE7Szv4Nkw1URFUxRFkwNVpLSTdTM0dRNkU3VVRZNTUJMy4u>

