

January 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers

You may by now have seen the Secretary of State for Education make a statement to parliament, confirming there would be no full sitting of examination in summer 2021 for GCSEs, AS and A Level qualifications. The Secretary of State stated that teacher assessments will feature in the determination of qualification grade outcomes. As yet, we do not know what process will be followed in order to do this.

There was a subsequent announcement in relation to BTEC qualifications. The Department for Education confirmed that scheduled assessments vocational qualifications, will not take place in February and March. This means that external assessments for BTEC Level 2 Tech Awards, Firsts, Technicals and Level 3 Nationals will not go ahead in February or March. They have provided reassurance that arrangements will be put in place for those of you who are now unable to take your external assessments to ensure you are not disadvantaged, so that those of you expecting to complete your qualification this year will be able to progress.

We understand that Ofqual will consult on arrangements for issuing grades this year for regulated Vocational and Technical Qualifications this year, as well as arrangements for exams due to take place in June, and will launch this consultation towards the end of this week. We will be able to give you more detail about grading once this consultation is complete.

What is important in the meantime, is that you continue to engage in the online learning provided by your tutor(s), stay connected to your group and complete and submit any work set. Engaging in the work now will mean that tutors know about your current ability and progress. It also means that if you need to submit anything as part of the process set out by Ofqual, then you'll be in a position to do so. If you or your child has Maths and English lessons, evidence from our recent assessments demonstrates that good attendance and the use of the Century online package has a positive impact on results. We were delighted by the achievements at the November resits and congratulate all those who now have their GCSE in English and Maths.

Qualifications aside, engaging in the learning will be good for whatever you decide to do next. If you're progressing to a higher-level study, here or elsewhere, staying connected will also mean you haven't missed out and will be in a strong position to succeed at the next level.

For those who require help, support or advice, our [Learner Support](#) and [Wellbeing Teams](#) remain available to you.

I want to thank you for the positive ways in which you have engaged in the online learning so far and for the continued resilience you show in adapting to changing circumstances.

Best wishes



Denise Williamson
Principal