



7th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Following the various DfE announcements this week and the following decisions surrounding examinations, we recognise that this is a very unsettled and anxious time for our students, especially those due to sit examinations in the January series.

Therefore we wanted to write to you provide the clarity we have been given as a school around the Vocational and Technical exams due to take place in January 2021.

The guidance that we have been given as a school from the Government has been again updated and is below:

- Students have worked hard for these exams and assessments, so it is fair that schools and colleges are given the option to run them, if they judge that to be the right decision
- Schools and colleges have already implemented extensive protective measures to make them as safe as possible
- No student will be disadvantaged if they can't take their exam or assessment or decide they don't want to
- We will consult on how to ensure students get a fair grade, working closely with the regulator Ofqual and stakeholders like the Association of Colleges

Considering this guidance, we wanted to let parents/carers and students know that we will fully support them with either decision. Therefore we will continue to run all scheduled public examinations as published in the timetable for January, as we feel it is important to give everyone who wishes to sit the examinations the opportunity to do so. However we also fully understand that for some students this may not be your preferred option now. We can confirm that Ofqual have issued assurances that alternative arrangements will be made and students will not be disadvantaged, although right now we are not certain exactly what this will look like.

Our examinations process has been risk assessed in line with our whole school risk assessment and the following additional precautions are in place:

- Each year group will sit their examinations separated
- There will be separate entrances for each year group
- Examinations desks will be fully distanced at 2m
- Students will be required to arrive and depart wearing face coverings
- Students will be able to wear face coverings throughout the exam if they wish
- Invigilators will wear appropriate PPE to distribute exam materials

We will be in touch with each student who has an exam scheduled to discuss their decision and proceed with arrangements and details, if their decision is to sit the exam.

Yours sincerely



Shaun Strydom
Associate Principal