

Dear Parents/Carers

18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Update on government decision to cancel 2021 exams

We write to provide some more information regarding exams and the study requirements for students in Y11 and Y13.

What we know so far

The government has confirmed the **cancellation of regular GCSE and A Level exams this summer**, and have now decided to **cancel forthcoming exams in vocational subjects that were due to take place in February and March**.

The government, working with the exams regulator Ofqual, intends to publish a consultation document in the next few days that sets out their suggested approach to the awarding of grades this summer. This document is likely to put forward plans to include some shorter exam-style papers that could be taken by students later in the year. The document will also indicate a preference to delay any submission of assessments from schools until much later in the school year. This is a consultation though – final decisions will not be made for at least two weeks.

What this means for students

We know that clarity and certainty will help students at this time, given their efforts through Y10 and the first lockdown, as well as their focused work since school re-opened in September and their current engagement with remote study. We hope to be able to provide you with this clarity and certainty once the government makes its final decision.

At this moment, **it is vital that students continue to engage with remote learning in all subject areas**, as provided by their teachers. The aim of the current learning plan is to ensure that they get to cover the maximum coverage of the subject content in all of their timetabled curriculum. **We will continue to assess their progress in knowledge and understanding of each subject** – which will help to inform any assessment information that government requests of us later in the school year.

For students taking vocational subjects and who would have been doing exams in February and March, teachers will direct their study so that they are able to perform well in any assessed tasks that still form part of their course. **Continued study in these areas is just as important as in any examined course**. The nature of these courses means that teachers assess a number of units of work in-school as a normal part of the qualification.

In due course, we hope to have students back in school. That will obviously enhance the level of individualised support that can be offered to them, within the restrictions that our Covid safety measures place upon teachers.

Next steps

As ever, your support is much appreciated. Please help your son or daughter to remain focused and to fully engage with remote learning. **Teachers will ask them to work on topics/units that are still**

**LEAP**

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**important for them to learn.** This will help them to close any gaps in knowledge and learning that may have occurred over the last year. It will also prepare them for any assessments later in the year that help us to provide evidence of their performance when this is requested.

We will, of course, write to you again once we are informed of the government's final decision following the consultation period. **Please note that the consultation is open to comments from parents/carers and students, too** – it aims to get the views of everyone that may be affected by the decision to cancel regular exams and the impact of lockdowns, etc on students' education.

If you want to read more information and comment on the consultation, please follow this link. The link to the consultation is at the bottom of the page. [Consultation on alternative arrangements for the award of VTQs and other general qualifications in 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/consultation-on-alternative-arrangements-for-the-award-of-vtqs-and-other-general-qualifications-in-2021)

With kind regards



Ms RJ Staples  
Principal



Mr W Barsby  
Chief Executive

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