

5th January 2021

Dear Year 12 and Year 13

GCSEs, CTEC and CNAT Qualifications 2021

Thank you to each of you who has been in touch to ask about your examinations this summer. The government has now confirmed that these are 'cancelled' and they will set out in due course a system for how students will be assessed.

There are examinations scheduled for next week beginning **11th January** for CNAT and CTEC qualifications. To date **these examinations are still scheduled** and students will be expected to attend the examination. If there are any changes to this from Ofqual, we will send out a message informing you as soon as possible.

Regarding the summer examination season, Gavin Williamson, the Secretary of State for Education, is consulting with Ofqual, the exams regulator, about how to do this in the fairest possible way. He is due to update parliament about this tomorrow and we will of course let you know if there are any significant developments.

I want to acknowledge the concern and disappointment that you feel; in fact, we share those feelings with you but we must all now focus on getting the best for you over the remainder of the year. There is always a lot of focus on *grades* but in actual fact the most important thing for your futures is not what grade you get but the outcomes these grades help you achieve – for Year 11s that means a place on the sixth form courses you are aiming for, and for Year 12 and 13s, it means a destination at the best possible university, apprenticeship or career for you. **I want to promise you that we will battle hard, whatever happens, to ensure that you get the outcomes you deserve.**

Part of 'battling hard' means delivering high quality remote learning from this week on, until schools are allowed to reopen. But you need to play your part in taking up this opportunity and it is vital that you persevere, despite all the uncertainty. While you won't need to sit in an exam hall this summer, you will still be assessed in some form most likely by your teachers, who know you best.

If you are struggling at home, at whatever point over lockdown, please let us know and we will make arrangements to help you. Otherwise, please remember that there are now just two terms left of the academic year; you have been amazingly resilient so far and we want you to stay focused and continue working hard every day.

We will of course update you as soon as there are any significant announcements from Ofqual or the government.

Yours faithfully



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Principal

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