6th January 2021

JANUARY BTEC EXAMS - UPDATE

Dear students, parents and guardians

Given the rising rate of Covid infections in the local area, and in conjunction with the recent announcement by the DfE and AoC, it is with a heavy heart that the college has had to take the decision to cancel the remaining BTEC external examinations in the January series.

This decision has followed direct discussions with the exam board this morning, and whilst I apologise that our position has taken a while to develop, I am sure that you appreciate that clear guidance has not been forthcoming. I have been keen to make sure that no students will be penalised by being unable to sit these exams, and I have had heard from Pearson, the exam board, that this is the case. If required, I will fight tooth and nail to ensure that this is so! At present we are awaiting further guidance as to how the grades for these exams will be determined and will keep you informed as this information becomes available.

I hope this alleviates the anxiety that many families have had to endure over the last 24 hours. As a college we have tried to balance the safety of students and staff against the directive that these are public examinations and so should continue. We are also very mindful of all the hard work students and staff have put in to prepare for these assessments, and that this news will come as a disappointment. Please be assured that the college will continue to support your learning and progression throughout this period.

The Secretary of State for Education is making a further detailed (we hope) announcement later today about the arrangements for the summer exams – we will send out a Carmel statement/position before the end of this week.

Best wishes

Mike Hill
Principal