

Our ref: CDC/SHA



6 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Students sitting BTEC and vocational exams – Spring Term 2021**

On Monday night the Prime Minister made a statement that examinations within the January 2021 series will be going ahead. However, yesterday at 6.00pm we had notification from the Department of Education that these exams could continue if the school feel it is right to do so.

Given the circumstances surrounding the national lockdown, remote learning for the majority of students and “in situ” learning for children of key workers and vulnerable students, we do not feel that it is right to sit the vocational examinations next week. Pearson, the vocational BTEC provider has stated “We will certificate any learner who is unable to take their exams and has enough evidence to receive a certificate that they need for progression. Learners unable to take their assessment this January may be able to take their assessment at a later date. If that is not possible, we will put in place arrangements to ensure no learner is disadvantaged.”

However, we are waiting details regarding how this will work and what constitute “enough” evidence or what additional arrangements are expected. Our Exams Officer and vocational subject teachers will be working with the exam boards to ensure our students will receive grades that fairly reflect the progress they have made to date. They will work alongside students to ensure they have evidence of future working. It is vital that students continue to work as hard as they can during this time as every piece of work completed may contribute to their final accredited grade.

I understand that this news will have caused some anxiety for you as parents and for your children. However, I feel withdrawing this exam series is the right thing to do so as not to increase a risk of transmission of COVID-19. If you have any questions, please email [exams@chantryacademy.org](mailto:exams@chantryacademy.org) .

Yours sincerely

**C D’Cunha**

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