

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



7th January 2021

Dear students, staff, parents and carers,

Vocational Exams Update

Today we have taken the difficult decision to withdraw our remaining student entries from the January 2021 vocational examination series, see below.

List of exams we have cancelled:

- 08/01/2021 - Yr13 Business Unit 6
- 11/01/2021 - Yr10 Cambridge Technical Sport Level1/2
- 13/01/2021 - Yr13 Sport Unit 1
- 13/01/2021 - Yr13 Art Unit 2
- 14/01/2021 - Yr13 Business Unit 7
- 15/01/2021 - Yr12 & YR13 Sport Unit 2
- 18/01/2021 - Yr13 Applied Science Unit 3
- 19/01/2021 - Yr13 CDM Unit 5

Following the government announcement at 8pm on Monday 4th January, there was much uncertainty around the continuation and completion of vocational exams and assessments. Initially confirmed early on Tuesday 5th January as 'going ahead as normal', there then followed further information from the DfE on examination safety concerns and decision-making at school level. At 22.21 on Tuesday 5th January, we then received notification from the DfE, that the decision to enter students lay with the schools and no student would be disadvantaged regardless of which option was chosen.

We do have significant concerns around safety and putting students and staff in additional risk scenarios such as exams. However, earlier this week, whilst decisions were still being made at government and awarding body level, we went ahead and held two of our exams as safely as we could, because we believed the students would be disadvantaged if we did not. Now that the DfE have made it clear students will not be disadvantaged if they do not sit these exams, we feel it is safer for all concerned to cancel the remaining entries and secure the grades for the students by using our own internal assessment data.

We appreciate that this week will have already been a rollercoaster of emotions for you all and this letter does not provide much advance notice of this decision. However, we have discussed all options and we feel that we are in a very strong position. Our experience of using Centre Assessed Grades in 2020 means that we have every confidence in our staff and their knowledge of what our students should achieve. Whilst there is much turbulence in the educational world at present, we remain committed to securing the best outcomes for each and every one of our students.

To ensure that you have an opportunity to discuss this decision, one of my staff will be in touch by telephone to support and reassure within the next 24-48hrs. However, should you have any queries in the meantime please contact Ms Morgan Leader of Employability and Vocational Learning morgan@qegs.email

Yours faithfully

Scott Garrity
Headteacher

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