



FAO: Parents & Carers of Year 11 Students

RE: National Lockdown & GCSE Update

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your loved ones safe and well at this time.

Following the announcement yesterday (**Monday 4th January 2021**) by the Prime Minister, I am sure like me you were stunned by the announcement regarding the summer GCSE exam series. In his address to the nation, Mr Johnson stated that:

“because we now have to do everything we possibly can to stop the spread of the disease, primary schools, secondary schools and colleges across England must move to remote provision from tomorrow, except for vulnerable children and the children of key workers..... We recognise that this will mean it is not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal. The Education Secretary will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements.”

Whilst initial thoughts and news media headlines may have been that GCSE examinations are cancelled it has become apparent that at this time this is not the case. Indeed as far as we as an organisation are aware the announcement only states that the exams will not operate in their usual format and that other methods of assessment are being looked at by the Secretary of State for Education and Ofqual.

At this time I would like to confirm that the proposed national exams for January and February 2021 are still going ahead as planned. For students at Denton Community College these include:

- **Thursday 7th January** – BTEC Music
- **Wednesday 13th January** – Child Development (Cambridge National)
- **Tuesday 2nd February** – BTEC Sport

These are external national examinations and their dates will not be changed, we therefore expect Year 11 students who are sitting the exams to be in school on these dates as planned. If there are any further announcements or changes made to these external examinations we will inform you immediately.

In addition to the announcement regarding examinations the Prime Minister also made it clear that all learning for students will now be delivered online until at least the February half term holiday, including all learning for the current Year 11 cohort. As such the proposed mock examination series will be postponed until students return to school, however we propose to still run the calendared Year 11 virtual parents evening on **Thursday 25th February 2021**.

The announcement made yesterday will surely generate more questions than answers, particularly for our Year 11 students as well as you as parents / carers. We are certain to hear further clarification and more details regarding proposed arrangements over the coming days and we will strive to communicate these to you as soon as possible. In the meantime if you or your child do have any questions please do not hesitate to contact either Mrs Hart (Head of Year 11), Mr Cumming (Deputy Headteacher) or Mrs Graham (Assistant Headteacher) who are all attached to this year group. In addition if you have a question specifically linked to examinations please contact Mr Haslam (Assistant Headteacher).

Once again I would like to reassure you that as and when further announcements are made regarding Year 11 and the summer examinations we will inform you immediately. Thank you for your ongoing support in the education of the students at Denton Community College.

HEADTEACHER: Mr G Rule

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Rule', written over a light grey horizontal line.

Greg Rule
Headteacher