



07 January 2021

Dear Student's, Parents and Carers

I appreciate the turmoil that I am sure families have faced and I know that the last 24 hours will have been confusing and emotionally difficult both for students and parents who are trying to support them. While we have tried to steer a course that did not take away an opportunity to sit an exam for students who have worked hard to prepare but also did not force anyone to come into school during the lockdown, we recognise that this has been hard for you.

The announcement that Gavin Williamson made yesterday afternoon, after the decision had been made and communicated to you, stating that qualifications would be awarded using teacher assessment has further added to the confusion and uncertainty. A number of students are now understandably asking themselves 'how will sitting or not sitting the exams affect what will be the (currently undisclosed/undecided) means of teacher assessment' and these are questions that currently it is not easy for you or the school to be able to answer.

While I feel we should still provide the chance to sit an exam for those students that want to, in the subjects where they feel confident, in these uncertain circumstances we fully understand and will support any student who either lacks the confidence to sit exams at this time or is concerned about the potential health implications for them or their family by attending school to do so.

We know that teachers have worked hard to support students in preparing and students have worked hard, under difficult conditions at times, to revise for these exams however **no student will be disadvantaged by not sitting the examination in the current circumstances when it comes to any teacher assessment decisions in the future.**

In light of this, please do take time to consider your circumstances and let us know your intentions by 12pm on Friday via your teacher for the course. To clarify, a student may choose to sit an exam paper for one course but not another exam paper (where they feel less confident) in the same course or equally choose to sit an exam paper for one subject but not for a different subject.

Yours faithfully

Mr P Foster
Headteacher