

Ref: MDS/SM/CYD/bomex2021

7 January 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

I have taken the decision to cancel the BTEC and OCR exams which were due to take place in January. The reasons for this decision are a combination of the following-

We are in a National Lockdown and as such we are all trying to keep contacts between people to a minimum within the community. Running the exams would involve students and staff travelling to the school site and additional contacts being made.

The exam boards, Pearson and OCR, have assured us that students will not be disadvantaged in their final grade if they do not take the exam.

There is much at the moment which is uncertain and unsettling for students and with the lockdown and school closures, students may not be able to perform at their best in these exams. If this were the case then it could have a negative impact on the student if this exam grade were to be used as evidence towards a final grade.

This has not been an easy decision to take as I know that students and staff have put in a considerable amount of work preparing for these exams. Some students may be upset by this decision and some may be relieved, or indeed feel both of these emotions.

The education secretary announced on 6th January that exams this summer would not take place as normal and that he would be working on an alternative which would involve some form of teacher assessment. We do not yet know what this will be. It is therefore vital that students continue to study as it is likely that some of the teacher assessment will be based on work which the students are yet to produce. Once we have more information about this then I will contact you.

Due to the nature of vocational courses, students may be expected to complete all the coursework elements of their course. This would normally be sent to a standards verifier as part of the moderation process, at the present time there is no indication this will not happen. This means students will be set a final deadline by their teacher when all the coursework will need to be completed by.

If you have any questions about this then do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully



M D Savidge
Headteacher