



St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

Service Compassion Justice Perseverance

Thursday 7 January 2021

Dear Families

Cancellation of Vocational, BTEC Examinations

As you will be aware, there have been significant announcements since the beginning of the week relating to schools. The Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson said "I can confirm that GCSEs, A levels and AS level exams will not go ahead this summer." However, there was no decision made about vocational exams and the statement was "schools and colleges have been given the power to decide themselves."

We received this information about vocational exams very late on Tuesday evening, therefore the exam on Wednesday still went ahead. However, on reflection, and given the recent reporting of the increasing rate of the transmission of the virus in London, we have made the decision that the vocational BTEC examinations will not go ahead. This is the decision being made by many schools across the country.

We know that students have worked very hard preparing for these exams and that there will be disappointment, however we believe, taking into account health messages supported by the NHS, that this is the safest option for staff and students.

Year 12 students will be able to take these exams next year. For Year 11 and 13 students they will receive teacher assessed grades in the summer. The exam boards are working on the format of the assessment for all students so that they are not disadvantaged.

It is very important indeed that students continue with any coursework assignments and studying the topics online. Despite this current time of uncertainty, we ask that students persevere as all their learning will be used as evidence for grading.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. We remain in very challenging and unprecedented times and we want to ensure that students who are in their examination year are awarded the grades that they rightly deserve.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Beverley Stanislaus
Headteacher

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