



Presfield High School & Specialist College

Headteacher: Tony Fay

8/1/20

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, during the Prime Minister's lockdown announcement on Monday he stated GCSE and A-Level exams will be cancelled in the summer and an alternative method of assessment will be undertaken. On Wednesday Gavin Williamson, the education secretary confirmed that this summer's GCSE's examinations will not take place. No information is yet available about how students will be assessed to enable grades to be awarded this summer.

We have been considering and planning for the possibility that this summer's examinations would be disrupted and this has proved to be correct. We moved our mock examinations from January to November/December. We moved our in school provision onto Google classroom to enable us to collate evidence based on assessment.

Last summer grades were given based on Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs). These grades were formulated by us based on mock exam results and teacher assessment. This year we are expecting the Government to insist on a more rigorous and robust approach to this process. We expect student coursework to be externally moderated and any internal assessments such as mock examination results to be used to affirm teacher assessments. With this in mind we have developed bespoke timetables for our KS5 students to maximise the opportunity to produce exemplar work commensurate with their ability. This means we have timetabled slots when your child will work with a staff member producing exemplar work. This will be done face to face in school or at designated times via online platforms. This timetable will be shared with you as soon as it is finalised and we hope you will be able to support and encourage your child to engage in these sessions. For us to be able to accurately assess students ability they must continue to engage with the Google Classroom and the teacher online intervention session we are planning for

The Government has also announced vocational exams due to take place in January would still go ahead. However; we have since received guidance from awarding bodies to say the decision for the exam to go ahead lies with school. Where we decide not to go ahead with the exam students will be afforded the opportunity to sit the exam later in the year or there will be an alternative method of assessment which is yet to be confirmed by the examination bodies. After much consideration and deliberation we have decided to cancel next week's Imedia examination. Our students have had an extremely disrupted return to school and we do not feel a examination at this time will best reflect their ability. We recognise this is an unexpected change for those students who were expecting to sit the exams and some may be disappointed by our decision but it has been taken in what we believe is their best interests. Students currently can sit the examination in the summer but that is subject to change. Decisions about other vocational examinations will be made and communicated when more information is available.



We appreciate how difficult the current situation is for all the students across the country who are working towards their qualifications. We also know the uncertainty is even more unsettling for our students. This is why we are trying to ensure students have a portfolio of evidence maximising their potential. We do not want to add pressure to parents, students or anyone else in the household and we certainly do not want this to lead to a student going into crisis. With this in mind, we ask you to encourage your child to engage and where engagement is difficult we will be in touch to see how we can best provide support so no student misses out on the grades they have worked so hard for and deserve.

Tony