

8th January 2021

Dear parents and carers,

This is the fourth letter I've sent you in just over a week... but what a week it's been!

I'll try and be brief, but thought you'd appreciate some updates on what we know so far...

It has now been officially confirmed that:

- **KS2 SATs will not go ahead this year**, and there will be no replacement
- **GCSE exams will not go ahead this year**, and teacher assessment will be used instead
- **A-level exams will not go ahead this year**, and teacher assessment will be used for these qualifications too

There is a less clear picture around vocational exams, some of which are scheduled for later this month for a number of our KS4 and KS5 students. In a statement released on January 6th, Ofqual's Chief Regulator said that "schools and colleges can continue with the vocational and technical exams due to take place in January where it is right to do so. This may be particularly important for vocational and technical qualifications which require a 'licence to practise', which can only be fulfilled through practical assessment."

None of our courses require a licence to practise and, having consulted widely with teachers and students, we feel that it is right for our vocational students **not** to sit the exams this month.

The exam boards promise that no student will be penalised, saying "There may be an opportunity to take their assessment at a future date. If this is not possible due to arrangements still to be announced for this summer, we will work with the DfE and Ofqual to make sure they are treated fairly."

So, as far as JCSC is concerned, we can also confirm that:

- **Vocational exams will not go ahead this month** and we will work with our students to ensure that, whatever is decided in the future, they will achieve the right grades

What is yet to be decided is how the teacher assessments for GCSE, A-level and, potentially, the vocational courses will be monitored. We may be asked to provide pieces of work to justify the grades we are awarding, so it is even more important than ever that all students continue to work hard for the remainder of the year and engage positively with their teachers during online learning sessions.

I just want to reiterate the core message from me to all students in years 11, 12 and 13 for whom the cancellation of the exams may be upsetting and frustrating. That message is don't worry - we will work with you and make sure you achieve the grades you deserve in the summer, whatever the assessment system.

To students in year 6 – it's a real shame we won't have the SATs to prove how hard you have worked and how well you are performing. It would be great to have a formal measure of the excellent progress you've made, and to celebrate how exceptionally well you have all done. We will, however, continue to do our internal PUMA and PiRA tests, and to keep working extremely hard to make sure you are all more than ready for year 7 and the start of key stage 3.

You will be aware that at the start of the week we were asked to implement a system of remote learning for all our students at incredibly short notice. I am delighted in the way that our staff team responded to this and the quality of the education your children are receiving at home must be amongst the best there is. The students have been equally amazing, and their positive participation and active engagement in the lessons has been commented on by all staff – it’s been a brilliant first week.

Thank you so much to the parents who have taken the time to contact school to commend staff for the hard work they’re putting in during these difficult weeks, and to comment on the high quality of the live lessons. Calls and emails like this, and positive Facebook posts that recognise our efforts really do make a huge amount of difference to us – it’s a real morale booster!

In order to ensure none of our students fall behind, please remember that your child should log on to Google Classroom for registration at 8.50am each school day, and follow their usual timetable through this slightly different time schedule:

Time	Online Learning Period
8:50- 9:05am	Registration and well being check.
9:15am- 10am	Period 1
10:15 am- 11am	Period 2
11am- 11:40am	Break
11:40am- 12:25pm	Period 3
12:25pm- 1:10pm	Lunch
1:15pm- 2pm	Period 4
2:15pm- 3pm	Period 5

More details and guidance on our live lessons can be found on our website <https://www.jcsc.co.uk/home-learning/> along with the email address for our ICT support team who are ready to help you with any problems.

Please do keep in touch with us, and make sure you check our Facebook page– it’s updated regularly with all the essential information and we respond to as many queries on there as we can.

I hope you have a restful weekend, that there are no more surprises in store, and look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

Best wishes,



Neil Rodgers
Executive Headteacher