

6th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

In this ever-changing situation, I wanted to get in touch with a further update regarding our Year 11 students and to offer you support as you reassure your child at this challenging time. Thank you for your unwavering support with this, and for your patience as we send regular communications to you all.

External Exams: January 2021

In a statement from the government last night, it was confirmed that the vocational and technical external exams that were due to take place over the coming fortnight **are now optional**. As such, we are making the decision to NOT CONTINUE with the exams unless students express an interest to do so. We understand that some students will have been working hard to prepare for these, so if your son/daughter DOES wish to continue with sitting these upcoming exams, please contact Mrs Rowlands (hannah.rowlands@thedeanacademy.org) as soon as possible (no later than 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday 6th January for the music exam and no later than 5.00 p.m. on Thursday 7th January for all others). We apologise for the tight turnaround in this. Please rest assured, the guidance is clear that those students who do not continue with these upcoming exams will not be disadvantaged in terms of their overall grades. To support those students who do wish to continue involved in their final preparations for these exams, the subject teachers will be delivering a series of remote booster sessions; the timetable for this is outlined below. As such, students who choose to go ahead and sit these exams should not attend their normal timetabled lessons at this time but attend these booster sessions instead.

SUBJECT	EXAM	BOOSTER
Music	Thurs 7 th 9.00 a.m.	Weds 6 th 9.00 a.m. -11.00 a.m.
iMedia	Mon 11 th 1.30 p.m.	Mon 11 th 10.05a.m. – 12.05 p.m.
Engineering	Tues 12 th 9.00 a.m.	Mon 11 th P4 & 5
Enterprise & Marketing	Weds 13 th 9.00 a.m.	Tues 12 th P4 & 5
Hospitality & Catering	Thurs 14 th 9.00 a.m.	Weds 13 th P4 & 5
Construction	Fri 15 th 9.00 a.m.	Thurs 14 th P 4& 5

Students sitting exams should arrive at the front of the school 15 minutes before their exam is scheduled to start, where they will be met by a senior member of staff. Students should ensure that they bring with them the appropriate exam equipment, that they are in full and correct school uniform and they must bring a face mask. Please rest assured that all appropriate precautions will be taken to ensure the safety of all students and staff involved in these exams. If your child is not involved in these exams, they should continue to work remotely from home





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unless we have made arrangements for them to work in school already.

Mock Exam Feedback and Parents' Evening

As I am sure you will be aware, the students sat a series of mock exams in early December. We felt it appropriate to let the dust settle following the announcement on Monday 4th January before sharing the results of these mock grades and as such they will be sent home by the middle of next week. We do not yet know the full details of how grades in the summer will be awarded, but it is important to understand that these mock exams form only a small part of the information used to make projected grades for the students. If you have any questions or queries regarding the reports, please do not hesitate to contact us.

In addition, we have decided to postpone the upcoming Year 11 Parents' Evening. We feel it would be more valuable to be able to meet with you (albeit remotely) once we have a clearer idea of what the government plans are for the alternative arrangements for exams; at present there are few details of how grades will be assigned. Once we have a clearer picture, we will arrange the parents' evening and provide much needed clarity on the situation.

Once again, please accept our sincere thanks for all of your support and patience during what is a difficult time for all. The mature and focused manner in which our Year 11 students have approached these first couple of days of remote learning has been nothing short of excellent. The message is, as always, to keep this up!

Yours sincerely

Richard Brand
Headteacher

RJB/TW - year 11 exams-060121

