



RANGE HIGH SCHOOL

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Head Teacher: Mr M. McGarry MA, PGCE, NPQH

January Exams- Vocational Qualifications Y11-13

Dear Parent/Carer/Student,

I hope you are all well.

I am writing in relation to the external assessments due to take place in the next two weeks as part of national vocational qualifications. You will no doubt be aware of the decision to cancel this summer's exams in all qualifications but the Department of Education has been less decisive in relation to the January series and have stated that the decision is for individual schools and colleges to decide.

After discussion with key staff and the Chair of Trustees, I have decided that we will not be in a position to allow these exams to now go ahead. The rationale behind this is twofold:

- In view of the current strain of Coronavirus, I cannot 100% guarantee the health and safety of everyone coming into school to sit exams or to invigilate them. Many of our families have clinically extremely vulnerable people at home and under a national lockdown, it is too much of a risk to put our students in an examination space at this time. The health of everyone in the school community remains our number one priority.
- Most schools and colleges are cancelling their exam sessions. This will mean that huge numbers of the national cohort will not be sitting the exam. I cannot guarantee, under these circumstances, that our students would not be disadvantaged if they were to sit the exam.

I appreciate that this may be upsetting for some of our students who have been working hard to prepare for these exams and this decision has not been taken lightly. I am sure that further information will follow from the main exam boards for vocational qualifications but they have already issued a statement saying that students not taking this round of exams will not be disadvantaged. Your teachers and I will keep you updated as we know more and you should continue to engage with all of the online learning activities being delivered. Your on-going participation in your learning and assessment will all be crucial in determining your final grade.

If you have any questions or queries, please get in touch with Dr Ainsworth, with Mrs Phillips or with your teacher in the first instance.

Best wishes,

Mr McGarry
Headteacher