



## Alderman Peel High School

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### Important Update Vocational Exams

Dear students and parents

Up until Monday January 4th, the Department for Education had confirmed that despite the national lockdown, the January vocational exams (BTEC First Award, Tech Award and OCR Cambridge Nationals) would still go ahead.

Yesterday evening (Tuesday 5th January), the Department for Education updated its guidance regarding these exams. The guidance now states that schools have the choice to offer these exams, if the school feels it is right to do so.

Given the national lockdown restrictions and the high levels of anxiety many of you are feeling at the moment, we feel that it is not right to ask you to sit this exam. In addition to this, the experience from the cancelled exams in 2020 tells us that it will not be in your best interests to sit these exams, due to how the exam boards subsequently calculated centre-assessed grades based on these external units.

We have therefore made the decision to withdraw students from all of the January/February exams. These are:

- Year 11 BTEC First Award in Travel and Tourism
- Year 11 OCR Cambridge Nationals in Sports Studies
- Year 10 and 11 OCR Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia
- Year 11 BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise

We know that this decision will cause some additional worry. We would like to reassure you that our decision is in line with many other schools, and exam boards have confirmed that no student will be disadvantaged if students do not sit these exams in this January window.

You will either sit the exam in the June window, or if that series of exams does not go ahead then you will be awarded a centre-assessed grade for this unit based on the standard of work you have completed. This is likely to be a process similar to the 2020 exams. We will inform you of the next steps as soon as the exam boards have confirmed them.

If you would like any further information, or have questions about this decision, please contact me on [mhardman7hr5@nsix.org.uk](mailto:mhardman7hr5@nsix.org.uk) to arrange a time to talk further.

As always, your support and understanding is greatly appreciated during this time.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Hardman  
Vice Principal

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