



Painsley Catholic College

Specialist Science College
Specialist Mathematics and Computing College
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Dear Parent/Carer

I am sure that you heard the news relayed by the Secretary of State for Education regarding the cancellation of this year's GCSE and A level examinations. The exact quote from the statement is as follows:

'Although exams are the fairest way we have of assessing what a student knows, the impact of this pandemic now means that it is not possible to have these exams this year. I can confirm that GCSEs and A and AS Level exams will not go ahead this summer. This year we are going to put our trust in teachers rather than algorithms.

The department and Ofqual had already worked up a range of contingency options. While the details will need to be fine-tuned in consultation with Ofqual, the exam boards and teaching representatives, I can confirm now that I wish to use a form of teacher-assessed grades, with training and support provided to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently.

I know students and staff have worked hard to prepare for the January exams and assessments of vocational and technical qualifications, and we want to allow schools and colleges to continue with these assessments where they judge it is right to do so. No college should feel pressured to offer these and we will ensure all students are able to progress fairly, just as we will with VTQs in the summer.'

As stated on Tuesday, we are determined that all GCSE, A/AS level, and BTEC students are awarded a grade that fairly reflects their work.

We anticipate that we will need some form of evidence to corroborate your child's grades. Therefore, it is **essential** that your child works hard to produce their very best work between now and June. I will write again as soon as I receive further details. Please note that we cannot simply award grades unless we can demonstrate the quality of work your child has produced. We have reviewed the dates for our internal assessment schedule to ensure students are fully prepared and supported to achieve their very best. To this end Year 11 and 13 assessments will now be scheduled for the fortnight beginning 1st February. Details will be provided in due course.

Finally, I repeat our **promise** to ensure that your child receives the grades they deserve. Students need to continue to follow their teachers' instructions and work hard at home so we have a portfolio of evidence of their potential if that is what is required.

BTEC and applied science examinations will continue as planned in school this week and next.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your son/daughter's pastoral lead.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Waugh



National Teaching School
designated by
National College for
Teaching & Leadership



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England



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