



**Queen Katharine
Academy**

A proud member of



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Dear Parent / Carer

Re: January Exam Updates

Today the education secretary confirmed that ‘teachers estimated grades will be used to replace cancelled GCSEs and A-levels in England this summer.’ The original guidance was that all students sitting BTEC and vocational exams in January should go ahead as planned. However, as this situation has developed, so too has our response. As a centre we will always look to maximise our learner’s choice and outcomes and as a result of this announcement students will now have two options with respect to their upcoming BTEC and vocational examinations in January:

1. Students can choose to sit their examination paper as planned according to their exam timetable, they simply come in as they were expecting to – many students have worked very hard in preparation for these exams and will feel the desire to prove their ability in this way.

or

2. Students can choose to not sit their paper and will be awarded a teacher assessed grade in due course – the mechanism for this has yet to be confirmed by the government but it is likely to involve large elements of class-based evidence. Some students may feel that their teacher assessment over time may give them a more accurate reflection of their ability and may choose this as a preferred option at this time. If students opt to do this, they simply do not need to arrive for their scheduled examination.

Pearson have confirmed that ‘no learner will be disadvantaged,’ in either scenario so this will be down to a personal decision by students based upon their own circumstances. Students will be supported and backed by the academy with whichever decision they choose to make.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any further information.

Yours sincerely

Mrs L Mayes
Principal



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