

Further to recent updates on the college website, I would like to provide additional information regarding our approach to on-line course delivery and how we will deal with the matter of A levels and other qualifications in light of the government's decision to cancel all scheduled examinations this year. This is what we know *now*; however, more information is emerging and will be disseminated in due course.

Obviously, this is a fast changing picture and we will continue to provide regular updates as further detail emerges.

Here's what we know so far:

1. From Friday 20 March the College is closed until further notice to all but a small group of identified students with whom we will be in contact. The college closure has been mandated by the government based on the principle of social distancing. Students should not attempt to access the site unless they have been invited to do so.
2. Students in receipt of bursary or free meal vouchers will receive their entitlement through BACs transfer.
3. All examinations scheduled for May and June have been cancelled.
4. Currently, we are planning to complete coursework and practicals as far as possible.
5. We understand that students often make significant progress throughout the last term of year 13, prior to formal examinations. Although we do not yet know the detail of exactly how final grades will be determined, the Secretary of State for Education has reassured us that no student would be disadvantaged.
6. We know that awarding bodies are working tirelessly with schools, colleges, regulators and government to make sure young people who were due to take exams this summer still achieve the qualifications they need to progress to the next stage of their lives – and that all the hard work students and teachers have already put in is properly rewarded.
7. Ofqual (the regulating and accreditation body for British examination boards) operates on the basis of fairness to all candidates. Here is their latest statement: *'We welcome the certainty that the Secretary of State's decision not to hold exams this summer provides in these challenging circumstances. We will now work urgently with the Department for Education to work through the detail of this decision and to provide more information as soon as possible.'*
8. There is a clear expectation that we will continue to deliver courses to both year 12 and year 13 through the remainder of this academic year, in accordance with our college calendar. Our online course delivery is aimed at doing this to the best of our ability.
9. There is also a clear expectation that all students will continue to engage with their learning, as directed by their teachers.

During this difficult and challenging time, we will continue to do our best for all of our students. Thank you for your patience and understanding, whilst we all await further detail concerning qualifications.

Remley Mann
Principal

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