

07th January 2021

To: Parents, Carers and Students

Dear Parent / Carer and Student

At the start of this academic year, when we elected to continue offering BTEC exams we carried out a full health and safety risk assessment of our exams procedure and confirmed that our process for administering BTEC exams was (and remains) safe.

However, with a review of the latest statistics related to Coronavirus released yesterday afternoon, and the fact that the upward trend of cases is likely to continue for another 2-3 weeks as the impact of social mixing during Christmas/New Year continues to be felt; connected to the fact that the BTEC examination window is scheduled to run until the 5th of February, aligned with the Pearson's BTEC announcement at 10:22pm on Tuesday that:

- They will award a grade for any student who is unable to take their exams and has "enough evidence to receive a certificate that they need for progression".
- Those unable to take their assessment this month "may be able to" take it at a later date. "If that is not possible, we will put in place arrangements to ensure you are not disadvantaged," Pearson added.

We have now decided that we will **cancel our current BTEC exam series**. If we were to hold these exams, we would be encouraging unnecessary movement within a lock down period that could potentially contribute negatively to the worsening statistics as published yesterday.

Before yesterday's information the risks were manageable, however with the latest information and updates, although we know the centre can be made safe, we feel we should not continue because we have a moral duty to act to protect the community as a whole and support everybody's efforts and sacrifices

There is an alternative route available for all students that will not negatively impact on their educational outcomes and the potential to sit these assessments at a later date where we will fully support students in being prepared for them if they chose to take this optional route.

I understand that this rapidly moving situation may cause questions to arise. If you have any queries related to the above information please contact me on simpsonbk@westlakesmat.org.uk

Yours faithfully,



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Vice Principal

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