

Wednesday 6th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 11 January Vocational Examinations

Today the government have confirmed that GCSE exams **will not** go ahead as planned this summer. We have been seeking clarification about the January vocational exams and the Department for Education have confirmed that: 'schools and colleges can continue with vocational and technical exams, where they judge it right to do so.

The circumstances of individual students and their families at the moment are hugely variable. We recognise that some students may have extremely clinically vulnerable family members at home and we do not feel comfortable forcing these students to take exams next week. We also recognise the fact that students' preparations for these exams have been severely disrupted by the national lockdown and the government's decision to switch to remote learning. On the other hand, we fully acknowledge that some students will have spent weeks and months preparing for these exams and will be disappointed if they are cancelled.

Due to the competing interests outlined above we have decided to make the exams next week non-compulsory for students. Students can take the exams next week or receive a teacher-assessed grade in the summer if they decide to delay their entry. We will have enough evidence with mock results and coursework to generate teacher-assessed grades without requiring students to sit exams in January. Students who do take the exams will be asked to complete Covid-19 tests on Friday 08 January 2021 and Monday 11 January 2021 (before the exams begin) to ensure that the exam is conducted in a 'COVIDsafe' environment.

If your child wishes to sit the exam, we of course support this and revision sessions will go ahead this week as detailed below. Students should arrive no more than 10 minutes before the session starts and **must wear a mask or exemption lanyard**. There may be a need to adjust timings of the Health and Social Care session depending on numbers, but this will be confirmed tomorrow.

Exam	Revision Day	Revision Time	Room
Sport Studies	Thursday 7 th January	11.30 – 2.30	IT4
Sport Science	Friday 8 th January	8.40 – 11.30	IT4
Health and Social Care	Friday 8 th January	9.40 – 12.40	HSC1

Please inform us of your decision using the linked survey below by midday tomorrow. Full details of the exam arrangements will then be sent to those still wishing to sit exams. **It is important to remember that students will need to continue to complete coursework in all subjects.**

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qZHA4UUN_0al340mL1jsAKIi7_Tp_tCo-SraRbOmutUMzdVV0I2STBQN1hMUEdBQ0YwVWVQ4SDYzWS4u

If you have any questions or if you are concerned about your child being onsite during revision sessions do not hesitate to email me at hrichley@leaf.bournemouth.sch.uk.

Yours sincerely,



Hayley Richley
Vice Principal – Standards and Curriculum

Oak Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT
Paul Holman, BSc (Hons), Director of Outcomes
Richard Burgas, BA(Hons), Principal

www.oak-academy.co.uk

E office@oak-academy.co.uk T 01202 774600
Duck Lane, Bournemouth, Dorset. BH11 9JJ