



Wednesday 6th January 2021

Good Afternoon Parents

Following an extended delay... the Minister of Education released a statement to update the current development regarding remote learning and exams @ GCSE, AS & A2

'I have therefore decided the following: all GCSE, AS and A2 exams due to take place in January, February, May and June will be cancelled. Work will continue on the alternative awarding arrangements and further details will be brought forward as soon as possible.'

There will be many questions.

We will now have to await information from exam awarding bodies such as CEA, OCR and BTEC as to the awarding of grades.

The following statement refers to pupils sitting exams, the Northern Ireland Exams Body, CCEA.

'CCEA had already been asked to consider contingency arrangements, should examinations be cancelled. Work will continue on alternative awarding arrangements and we will provide advice to the Department of Education, and other education partners, on these arrangements.'

We fully understand the challenging situation faced by learners and are committed to provide solutions as soon as possible, to ensure our young people will continue to have a pathway into further education or employment.'

Pupils sitting exams for OCR (CTEC) & Pearson (BTEC, Edexcel)

I met with Heads of Department this afternoon, following information released by the Department for the Economy, we have decided that pupils will not sit exams in these subject areas.

"In conjunction with my Ministerial colleagues in England and Wales, we have therefore agreed that further flexibilities will be put in place for the January exams and assessments, particularly in relation to BTECs. Learning centres, including further education colleges, schools and training providers, will be afforded additional discretion to determine whether it is appropriate for learners to sit the scheduled BTEC exams in January, taking into consideration a range of factors including health and safety and the personal circumstances of their learners."



"I wish to provide an assurance that no learner will be disadvantaged if they are not in a position to sit the January exams and they will be able to take the exams at a later date, or if that is not possible, alternative arrangements will be put in place by their learning centre / awarding organisation."

What next?

Pupils should continue engaging with their staff via Google Classroom, and work towards their Target Grade. Staff will continue to deliver subject content, and provide feedback to support pupil progression, and achievement.

The recent weeks, days and hours, have both been, challenging and draining, for Pupils, Parents and Staff. The release of information has been slow and great patience has been called upon! On the positive staff are committed to the pupils of Dunclug College, together we will continue to make a difference.

My message to pupils is, keep your head high, remain upbeat... engage remotely... and get a firm grip on those target grades!

I will be in contact tomorrow regarding information about Google Classroom & Parent Updates etc.

Let us all face the days ahead with courage.

Niall Oliver
Principal