



An email update from Julia Howe – 15 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have been staying safe and adjusting to the current situation again. We really do appreciate how difficult it can be with everyone trying to work and study at home - it isn't easy – so thank you again for your continued support. Please find attached information and advice relating to remote working which will be published on our College website, there are some Questions and Answers which importantly include information on how to access the equipment loan facility.

I also wanted to provide you with an update on the examination situation as it currently stands. As you know the government announced the cancellation of GCSE/A Level examinations on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, however, were unclear on the guidance relating to Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs) and left the decision to each college as to whether to continue with planned assessments or to cancel. In line with the clear 'stay at home' message and to ensure that we minimised risk to our students and our staff, we took the decision to cancel examinations and we apologise for any distress this may have caused. The Department for Education have now announced that all VTQ examinations/assessments for this term will be cancelled unless it is safe to continue with some assessments continuing, relating to apprenticeships, where it is safe and possible. The Department for Education and Ofqual (representing awarding bodies) will soon enter a period of consultation on the plans to replace the cancelled assessments. For us, and for our students, the sooner we know the government plans, the sooner we will be able to plan and prepare for the completion of qualifications.

We look forward to being back at College as soon as we can.

With best wishes

Julia

Julia Howe  
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