



Dear Parent/Carer

7th January 2021

On Monday 11th January a number of our year 11 students are due to sit their exam in BTEC Animal Care and OCR National Sport Studies. Despite the government confirming that the GCSE exams will not happen this summer they have not made an absolute decision on what would happen with the January BTEC and OCR National examinations. Instead the decision has been given to schools to offer the exams "where they judge it right to do so".

We know that our students have worked hard to prepare for these assessments and due to this we would like to offer them the opportunity to still sit them and demonstrate how well they can do. We believe that we can do this in a socially distanced and safe manner but understand that some students may still not wish to come in to complete the exams.

Pearson have stated that for their BTEC examinations:

- We will award a grade for any learner who is unable to take their exams and has enough evidence to receive a certificate that they need for progression.
- Learners unable to take their assessment this January may be able to take their assessment at a later date. If that is not possible, we will put in place arrangements to ensure you are not disadvantaged.

OCR have stated that for their OCR National examinations:

- If your students do not take our exams this January, there are options:
- There may be an opportunity to take their assessment at a future date. If this is not possible due to arrangements still to be announced for this summer, we will work with the DfE and Ofqual to make sure they are treated fairly.
- If students were going to certificate in January, we will award a grade to a student if there is enough evidence, to help them progress.

We still await further guidance on exactly how grades will be determined this year so cannot comment on how the scores achieved in these assessments would contribute to the overall grade.

We will be contacting those affected soon via a phone call to confirm whether your child will still want to attend for the exams on Monday.

Yours sincerely

Mr T. Pearce
Deputy Headteacher
tpearce@kirkhallamacademy.co.uk