



6th January 2021

DfE Announcement about Vocational (Btec) Exams

Dear students and families,

You will be aware that the DfE made a very late announcement on 5th January about the spring vocational / Btec exams. In summary they have stated that schools and colleges may still run these exams, and should make their own decisions about whether or not students sit the exams. Where students sit the exams, they will be given a grade accordingly. Where students do not sit these exams, they will be given an estimated grade. At present we do not have the full details about how the estimated grades will be arrived at, but we believe that the exam board will ask schools to provide supporting evidence for the estimated grades, similar to the process used for last summer's CAGs (centre assessed grades). On seeking advice from the Local Authority and following discussions with the respective Heads of Departments, the policy at CFGS with immediate effect will be as follows:

- We will permit all students who are fit and able to sit the exams to do so
- All exams will be conducted using JCQ requirements, specifically with regard to the revised more stringent procedures for maintaining full health and safety measures around COVID (i.e. extended social distancing in exam venues, cleaning before and after every exam, social distancing on routes to exam venues, availability of hand sanitiser etc.)
- We are encouraging all students to sit the exams as they have been working towards these exams over the course of the autumn term
- Any student who is unwell at the time of the exams and / or has been unduly affected by mitigating circumstances over the Christmas break or any point in the run up to the exams, will not have to sit the exam(s)
- Students may elect not to sit the exams, for example on the grounds of concerns about their health and well-being.

In the event of students not sitting an exam, the school will complete the necessary documentation for 'special consideration'. **Please note that when submitting requests for special consideration, you may be asked for supporting evidence.** For example, where a student has tested positive for COVID or has had to self-isolate due to close contact with someone who has tested positive. For all students who self-elect not to sit exams, or who cannot sit the exams due to mitigating circumstances, we ask that they submit their reasons in writing by email to aahmed@central.towerhamlets.sch.uk specifying the reasons. This is so that we know in advance how many students to expect for every exam.

If you have any questions relating to the Btec exams, please contact the relevant subject teacher in the first instance. Any further queries should be addressed for the attention of Ms C. Prince using the welcome@central.towerhamlets.sch.uk email.

Yours sincerely,

Ms C. Prince
Senior Deputy Head

Transforming



Challenging



Valuing



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