



March 25th 2020

----- **Information Update for all Year 12 students** -----

Dear students,

Firstly, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families our sincerest well wishes at this very difficult time. We genuinely hope that you and your loved ones are well, safe and that this continues to be the case in the forthcoming days and weeks ahead.

We are extremely sorry for the disappointment, worry and uncertainty that last Thursday's government announcement, regarding the cancellation of all examinations, must have caused you and your families.

As is to be expected, over the last few days we have been receiving a large number of telephone calls and emails from worried students and parents regarding the cancellation of this summer's examinations and the resulting implications, if any, that this will have for Year 12 students.

We have detailed below important information relating to your AS level and BTEC examinations and what you should now be doing to ensure you are giving yourself the very best chance of future success in Year 13.

AS Examinations

The school will be withdrawing your AS examination entries and will enter you for the corresponding A level examinations at the end of Year 13 instead (subject to you meeting the effort and performance criteria to continue the course into Year 13). Students will not be disadvantaged by this action as A level Grades take precedence and overwrite any AS Level grades a student receives. Any student not continuing an AS course into Year 13 will be given the opportunity to sit the relevant AS Level examination in the summer of Year 13 or before* if they wish.

*The government has indicated that students will have the opportunity to sit AS examinations at some point before next summer if they wish to do so. The government will decide when this additional opportunity to sit examinations will take place once the current challenges facing the country have been overcome and schools have been permitted to reopen.

BTEC Examinations

We are hopeful that the government will issue examination grades to Year 12 BTEC students in the same way that they will be awarding BTEC examination grades for Year 13 students.

Your teachers are currently preparing Predicted Grades for any BTEC examinations you were due to sit this year in the hope that BTEC examination grades will be awarded to Year 12 students this summer. The school is expecting to submit these grades to the government in due course and hoping that the government will use these grades as a basis for deciding which grade each student is to be awarded.



If the government does not award any examination grades to Year 12 BTEC students this academic year, the school is fully committed to supporting you to study and undertake the same examinations in Year 13 instead.

Please see the "Predicted Grades" section below for information on how the school is formulating your BTEC Examination Predicted Grades.

Can I appeal against any BTEC Examination Grades I am awarded?

Yes, but only if you believe that the correct process* has NOT been followed.

* The government will be announcing the process it will be using to award grades in due course.

How will my BTEC Examination Predicted Grades be created by the school?

The school is very conscious of the fact that the Mock Examinations it sets are very challenging indeed, often covering material that has not yet been taught fully and that every year, students in the school make significant progress following their Mock Examinations, resulting in exceptional achievements in the final examinations.

As such, the BTEC Examination Predicted Grades you will be awarded will be based on the following factors as well as your performance in any Mock Examinations and other assessments.

- Effort and Performance in Lessons
- Effort and Performance on Coursework and BTEC assignments (where applicable)
- Effort and Performance on Homework Activities
- Effort and Performance in Intervention / Revision sessions (where applicable)
- Attendance to Lessons and Intervention / Revision sessions (where applicable)
- Anticipated improvement between the Mock Examination period and the Summer examination period

Should I continue working in the subjects that I was due to sit examinations for?

Yes.

AS subjects: It is critical that you continue studying each of your AS subjects as all of the content covered this academic year will be assessed in the A Level examinations at the end of Year 13. Any work you do now will be of vital importance when you come to sit your A level examinations.

BTEC subjects: You should prioritise all outstanding coursework/assignments. If BTEC examination grades are not awarded to Year 12 students in the summer, you will be required to sit any BTEC examinations that have been cancelled next year instead. Any work you do now will be of vital importance when you come to sit your BTEC level examinations.



Further communication will be sent to you, and your parents, as and when further information is issued by the government.

It has been an absolute pleasure to see first-hand how you and your peers have approached your studies with such diligence and maturity this academic year, the wonderful progress you have made and the example you have successfully set for all other students in the school. We very much look forward to welcoming you back to St John's once the current national and international crisis has passed.

Best wishes again to you and your loved ones at this very difficult time.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Walton

Associate Head Teacher