



Atlantic Academy Portland

an Aspirations Academy

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11th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Exams information and engagement expectations

Year 11 Summer Examinations 2021

You will no doubt have seen the recent news that the Department for Education (DfE) has announced that the Summer 2021 exams will not take place as planned. This is a great disappointment as our Year 11 students have been working extremely hard and we are confident in the progress they are demonstrating. However, the cancellation takes into account the very different experiences that students have had across the country.

Centre Assessed Grades (CAGs)

The DfE has announced that final grades will be awarded based on the assessment of their teachers. However, as yet, the details for this process, including moderation and standardisation, have not been confirmed. Early suggestions from the DfE are that the process is being worked on and they hope to provide further details in late February. In the meantime, it is very important that **students continue to work hard and complete their courses as if they were sitting their final exams**. They still **may be required** to complete some **formal assessment** tasks when they return to school to help teachers generate grades and allow moderation to take place between students and schools.

DfE Guidance

There is little official guidance so far, or detail regarding exam grading, but the link below will take you to the latest announcement by the Education Secretary if you find it useful. One thing that the government has assured schools is that computer algorithms will not be a part of the process for determining GCSE grades. We welcome this commitment. <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-statement-to-parliament-on-nationallockdown> We will continue to update you as and when more information becomes available.

Vocational Exams

The message from the government contained little information around the exams due to take place for many schools during January and February. I appreciate this must be an incredibly stressful time for all students due to sit exams over the coming weeks. However, **we have taken the decision to not go ahead with all January exams**. This includes:

- Travel and Tourism
- Hospitality & Catering



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February Exams are currently cancelled however, this could be subject to change following government guidelines

- Enterprise
- HSC
- Sport

I am sure you will understand this was not an easy decision to arrive at, particularly as there is so little known at this stage. Please be assured all staff are working incredibly hard and will continue to do so to ensure every student receives a deserved grade that reflects their hard work and commitment to the course of study. As more information becomes available, I will communicate updates frequently.

Mock Exams

The mock exams that were due to take place over the next few weeks are, of course, now not taking place. It will depend very much on when the students can return to school as to if, or when, these assessments will take place. It may not be appropriate to conduct full mock exams and we will await further guidance as to the kind of assessment tasks that centres may be required to conduct. Again, this depends upon when students can return to school.

Year 11 Engagement and Evidence

In these difficult times, we will continue to support all our students, specifically our Year 11s to ensure that they are able to be successful in the transition into the next stage of their education. It is important that students are prepared for this next phase and have the **knowledge and confidence** to succeed. Therefore, it is **vital** that all Year 11 students **remain engaged** with their **online learning** and **complete and submit** work to the **best of their ability**. The work completed during this stage of remote learning will be part of the **evidence** gathered by teachers when **generating centre assessed grades** later in the year.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Migliari
Vice Principal of Secondary