

# CITY OF DERBY ACADEMY

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Headteacher: Mr P Smith



Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parent/carer,

## Re: Summer exams 2021

The Department for Education (DfE) have confirmed this week that exams will not take place as normal in 2021 due to the disruption caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

Although no further details have been provided, the government's intention is that there will be "*a form of teacher-assessed grades, with training and support provided to ensure these are awarded fairly and consistently across the country*", although there is still the possibility of examinations in some subjects such as English and Mathematics.

Last year, the City of Derby Academy successfully ran a teacher-assessed grade process that ensured all students received the grades they needed to access college courses, apprenticeships or employment, and we would like to assure you that we will do so again this year. The key message of this letter, therefore, is that students and their parents/carers should not be worried about the effect of cancelled exams.

The best advice we can give at this time is for students to continue working as though the exams were taking place and to engage fully with lessons, whether online or in the classroom. We also urge students to complete work to the best of their ability and to prepare fully for all assessments, as this will ensure that teachers have a range of evidence on which to base their teacher-assessed grades.

Hopefully, we will return to face-to-face lessons soon, and we welcome the news that the DfE will be reviewing the restrictions on schools and will ensure that children return to face-to-face education as soon as the pressures on the NHS are reduced.

Until then, your child's teachers continue to work very hard to provide and develop high quality on-line remote learning, and during the current lockdown it is vital that students engage positively with this. We will be monitoring on-line attendance, behaviour and work completed, and will raise any concerns we have with you.

For more information on-line learning please check our website:

<https://www.cityofderbyacademy.org/remote-learning/>

If you have any concerns about your child's ability to access on-line learning, please let us know.

Please reassure your child that they should not worry, but simply focus on doing their best in all that they do. This is all that anyone can ask of them. As always, if they do have concerns, they should contact their Form Tutor or Head of Year in the first instance.

We will provide more details of the teacher-assessed assessment system when the government provides more information. Until then, if you have any questions, please email me at [aharding@cityofderbyacademy.org](mailto:aharding@cityofderbyacademy.org)

Thank you for your continued understanding and support for the school. In these challenging times we remain committed to our vision of "improving the life chances of all students."

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Harding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "A" and a large "H".

**Mr. A. Harding (Deputy Headteacher)**