

CITY OF DERBY ACADEMY

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Thursday 7th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 11 - January Vocational Exams

We are writing to you to confirm the January vocational exam series will not take place at CODA. The decision has been made on health and safety grounds and considering the assurances made by Ofqual that our student's progression will not be affected by this decision.

Following on from the announcement by the DfE on the 5th of January 2021 and subsequent guidance from some exam boards, which include Pearson BTEC, Eduqas and OCR, the following statements have been published by Simon Lebus, Chief Regulator, on exams in 2021. "The government has announced that schools and colleges can continue with the vocational and technical exams due to take place in January where it is right to do so. This may be particularly important for vocational and technical qualifications which require a 'licence to practise', which can only be fulfilled through practical assessment."

Ofqual, the exam boards and the DfE have made assurances that measures will be in place to ensure 'no learner is disadvantaged.' Stating that:

- 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.

We have worked hard to explore all possible options of maintaining safety for everyone involved in the exams. At this point in time we do not believe we are able to run the exams safely. Therefore, we have taken the decision to cancel the exams. Our decision is also supported by the type of BTEC qualification we offer at CODA. Our vocational qualifications do not require a 'licence to practise' so cancelling the exams will not disadvantage any of our students.

This has been a difficult time for our year 11 students, especially those preparing to sit exams in the January series. We want to thank students and staff who have been working tirelessly to prepare for the exams, this makes us exceptionally proud of the work of our whole school community.

Thank you for your continued support, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Smith
Headteacher