

6 January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of Year 12 Students

**Re: GCSE examinations in English and maths, January sittings.**

It has been indicated in the BBC news this morning that the Minister of Education, Peter Weir, is going to announce this afternoon that January 2021 sittings of GCSE examinations have been cancelled. Our students were due to sit maths on Monday 11 January and English on Thursday 14 January. Because of this cancellation, and in the light of current COVID safety restrictions, **our revision sessions in English and maths scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday 7 January, are cancelled.**

I know that for many students this will be a relief, because with classes cancelled this week, many will feel they were not fully prepared to do their best. However, students will also be worried about how their eventual grade will be affected. Please be assured that the examination board CCEA, is currently working on a system of assessment which will be as fair as possible for all students. It is worth remembering that every student in Northern Ireland is in the same situation.

One good thing to remember is that, as a result of this year's difficulties, this generation of students has developed a resilience and independence which will stand them in good stead in the future. All our staff really appreciate their effort to make the best of their GCSE year, and we will do everything we can to support our students to success.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Lambe  
Principal