



# Clacton County High School

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Higher Expectations, Raising Aspirations

Our reference: CTALET29 – BTEC letter

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We are writing to you to confirm that our January exam series will be cancelled. We apologise for the late notice of this information.

On Monday evening, 4th January, the Prime Minister announced that England would be entering a new period of national lockdown and all schools would be closed for most students until at least the middle of February. In this announcement he also acknowledged that all summer GCSE and A level examinations would not be able to go ahead as planned, at that time there was no clarity on the BTEC examinations due to take place imminently. Later the same evening we then had a statement from the Department for Education (DfE) stating “Public vocational exams and assessments scheduled to take place in January will go ahead as planned.” We felt that this decision was unfair on students taking vocational subjects compared to those taking GCSE and A level examinations.

Yesterday evening, 5th January, the Department for Education (DfE) stated that “In light of the evolving public health measures, schools and colleges can continue with the vocational and technical exams that are due to take place in January, where they judge it right to do so”.

We have already heard from some of you that your child is unable to sit their January exam due to your child either having Covid or being a close contact of someone who has Covid and some of you have also raised concerns with regard to your child attending the exams.

Later last night we also had confirmation from Pearson who delivers our BTEC exams that “...we have agreed the following with Ofqual and the DfE to ensure that no learner is disadvantaged”.

We will certificate 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 “no learner is disadvantaged”.

Taking all of this carefully into consideration we have therefore decided to cancel all of our January BTEC exams for public health reasons and to ensure fairness to all students.

Once again, sincere apologies, for the uncertainty, but the situation for students and schools is changing very rapidly. Please rest assured we are doing all that we can to support our students during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely

CHRIS TAYLOR  
Head of School

SARAH MCKARRY  
Head of College