

Be inspired and achieve together

6th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As you may be aware we have recently received a further update regarding examinations due to take place in 2021. It has been announced by the government that all written exams for GCSEs and A Levels will not be going ahead this year as planned with Vocational exams, such as BTecs, carrying on, if schools and colleges decide to continue with them.

We have made the decision at Arnold Hill to continue to offer the planned vocational exams, due to take place in January and February, for those students that would like to take up the opportunity to complete them. For any student that is not able to do this the following guidance has been provided by Pearson:

- 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.

Please can you contact Sally Tooms, Examinations Officer, at Sally.Tooms@arnoldhillacademy.co.uk if your child will not be attending their planned examination.

Please can we take this opportunity to stress to all students how important it is that they continue to engage in all remote learning sessions available. The reason for us saying this is that teachers will be asked to take into account all the evidence they of a students work and ability, and your child still has several months in which to learn more in their subject and show the quality of their understanding. The Department for Education is currently working with exam boards and OFQUAL to look at options for the replacement of exam results. Ongoing engagement and completion of set work will ensure that schools are able to provide the relevant evidence to support grades once the final process has been agreed.

Simon Lebus, Interim Chief Regulator, OFQUAL, has released the following message to students and parents today. "We know that this is a difficult time for students, their parents and carers, teachers and trainers. Our message to students is this: please continue to engage as fully as you can in your education. That will be online for the majority of students, or face-to-face for those students still going in to their school, college or training provider. This will put you in the best position, whatever arrangements are made for your qualifications. It's important that teachers and students can focus on the knowledge and skills needed to equip students to progress to the next stage, whatever form that might take – whether to college, an apprenticeship, university or employment."

We understand that this is a very difficult and confusing time for all students and parents involved in examinations this year. Please be assured that all staff at Arnold Hill Academy will continue their hard work with so that students are not disadvantaged by the changes and will receive a fair and appropriate grade in the summer.

Kind regards,

Ella Strawbridge
Assistant Vice Principal

Arnold Hill Academy is part of the Spencer Academies Trust

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