

12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers.

### **Re – Exams cancellations and awarding grades in summer 2021**

I write to give you an update on changes to exams for 2021, following the Prime Minister’s announcement regarding the cancelling of summer exams for GCSE and A Levels last week. As you may have seen exam grades are to be replaced with teacher assessed grades. We are currently seeking clarification about the systems to be put in place to award students with exam grades in the summer. As it stands today, we still await further clarification from the DfE and Ofqual to explain the contingency plan for awarding students with these grades for their qualifications.

#### **What we know so far**

1. All GCSE and A Level exams in summer 2021 are cancelled
2. Students will receive grades based on a form of teacher assessment
3. Training and support will be provided to teachers to ensure teacher-assessed grades ‘are awarded fairly and consistently across the country’
4. Details will need to be fine-tuned in collaboration with Ofqual, the exam boards and teaching organisations
5. Ofqual will launch a 14-day consultation this week to get feedback from the sector
6. Results may be issued early to allow more time for appeals, resits and university admissions.

#### **What this means for our students:**

We know that many of our Year 11 and 13 students will be wondering what this process will look like. We will be communicating to you and our students as the developments are communicated. The most important thing for students to do now is to **fully engage** with remote learning as we are still six months away from completing whatever process is put in place. It is imperative that students’ attendance and engagement with remote learning is excellent, allowing students to focus on the knowledge and skills needed to equip them in progressing to the next stage of their education/career. Teachers will need to see this engagement and hard work to help inform them through any assessment period as we find out further detail and when.

#### **Cancellation of January exams (SUA6 only)**

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’. Having considered carefully this guidance we have decided to cancel all January exams with the exception of business. All students have been informed and we await further information about the alternative arrangements for these qualifications.



### **Next steps**

We wish to emphasise that whichever route of assessment is utilised to support the awarding of grades this summer, no student will be disadvantaged because of lack of resources or access. Once we receive further clarity on the process of awarding grades, we will do our utmost to ensure that all of our students, who would have sat their exams this summer, receive the grades that they deserve.

If you do have any questions or queries in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me via email to [info@suacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@suacademy.co.uk)

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'RBR', followed by a short horizontal line.

Mr R. Barnett-Richards  
Assistant Principal