

6th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Public exams next week in I-media (Monday 1.30pm) and Child development (Wednesday 9am)

Since the announcement by the Prime Minister on Monday evening, and the cancellation of GCSE and A-Level exams in the summer, we have been trying to seek clarity from the government and exam boards about all vocational exams due to take place next week. As it stands, we have been told that it is up to individual schools to decide whether to run these exams.

As you will understand, this puts us in a very difficult position. We have been given no clear guidance on what will happen in the absence of these exams and how grades will be awarded for the summer, and we have been given no indication of the benefit of sitting the exam now.

Weighing all of this up, we have decided that we will proceed with the exams next week for students who wish to sit them. This will NOT be compulsory. The key reason for this is that some students have been preparing for these exams and it seems only fair for them to be allowed to sit these and bank a result if they wish. For some students who have prepared well, it may be that they are better placed to sit an exam now. For others who haven't, it may not. Students, parents and carers will know those individual circumstances better than us.

Having said this, we are also aware that some students are currently self-isolating and unable to attend, or may feel too anxious. We do understand this and can offer reassurance that students sitting this exam now and those who are not, will have the same opportunities to achieve as high a grade as possible in the summer.

This is an incredibly difficult situation for all students due to sit exams imminently but we hope you agree that to go ahead for those who want to is the best solution in the circumstances.

All students should attend school for their exams at the times already stated on their mock timetable, in school uniform and congregate on the school tennis courts behind the sports hall. Please aim to be on the tennis courts 15 minutes before the scheduled start time. students must leave the school site immediately after the exam. Students must NOT attend if they have any symptoms of COVID-19.

If your child will not be attending the exam, please inform Mr Hemming at shemming@lighthall.co.uk. by the end of this week.

Thank you for your continued support

Yours sincerely

Mr R Hall Deputy Headteacher Mrs A Kimblin Headteacher

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