

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

A Leading Edge Technology & Applied Learning College

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6th January

Dear Parents/Guardian

You may be aware of some updated information regarding vocational exams which came late yesterday evening. VTCT, the course provider for Hair and Beauty, have said

“ The Department for Education has confirmed (*4th of January*) that vocational assessments scheduled to take place in January will go ahead as planned. The link to the Government’s guidance pages for schools and colleges [can be accessed here](#).

The January 2021 assessment series for the Performance Table Qualifications will remain open and run as planned. The decision about whether the learner will take the examination remains with the centre that is delivering the qualification. “

While they have introduced a possible retake for the exam in March we do not have the date for this and there is no guarantee that this exam will take place as normal. We have no information about how grades will be decided if no further examinations take place and we do not yet have any information on what examinations could be replaced with.

We are conscious that some of our students may not wish to undertake the examination offered, but others will wish to take the examination as they feel they are prepared and ready for the assessment. We will support you if you wish to make either of these decisions.

We would hope that VTCT would ensure students would not be ‘disadvantaged’ by not taking the exam. This is what other vocational providers have said as of last night.

As a school we are confident we can run the examination in a Covid secure and safe manor for those that wish to attend. We still intend to run a revision session from 9-10am.

We realise that this is a very challenging time for you, but please rest assured that we will support you whatever your decision.

Your sincerely

D McGuinness
Assistant Head Teacher