



# La Retraite

Roman Catholic 11-19 Girls' School

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**Head Teacher:** Mr. D. Malins

7<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian,

## OCR technical exams and BTEC exams

You may not be aware but Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, made no decision about vocational exams that are happening this week and next week. He said that Headteachers can decide to run them if they want.

Initially, we planned for the exams to go ahead - the students have prepared and worked hard for them and the results would provide extra evidence for teacher predictions in the summer.

On reflection, however, given the:

- Feedback from students expressing a high level of anxiety;
- The increasing rate of infection in London and the impact this is having on the NHS,
- The risks students and staff would be exposed to on public transport

I believe the safest option for staff and students is to cancel next week's exams. I am aware that some of you will find this disappointing as your child has worked hard in preparing for the exams. We feel the same, but the overriding message from the NHS is that the safest option is for us to stay at home as much as possible.

With regards to the exams themselves, Year 10 and 12 students can do them next year. Year 11 and 13 will get teacher grades in the summer based on exams and coursework completed. It is very important, therefore, that year 11 and 13 students continue to work hard on the online work – teachers will use this as evidence in setting a grade.

If you have any further questions about these exams, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. I thank you for your amazing support and your understanding in this matter.

Kind regards,

Dominic Malins  
Headteacher

Faith, Values, Excellence

