

6 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

We have been keeping a close eye on information from the Department of Education and the Examination Boards with regards to the examinations scheduled for January.

The College has made the decision to proceed with the planned unit examinations for all subjects. The Department of Education has deferred this decision to Schools and Colleges to make based on their ability to offer a suitable provision. S6C is confident we are able to provide a safe setting that fits this need. We are extremely conscious of the hard work that has been done by the students in preparation for these examinations.

There are a number of areas we have taken careful thought over to make our decision. Here are points we have considered that we're sure you will want to think about too, to help you make your decision regarding attendance of these examinations.

- S6C believes it is the responsibility of us as a provider of your education to give you the opportunity to take this examination.
- A considerable amount of effort and hard work has gone into your preparations over the last few months to ensure you are ready for these examinations, well done.
- Due to our comparatively small cohort size (maximum 26) for these examinations we know we can socially distance students for these examinations.
- You need to be confident and comfortable with travel arrangements to get to college feeling safe, if possible have alternate options to using public transport.
- There will be an opportunity to make an entry to resit the examination in the summer season. However, at this point it is likely that the course will have moved on and there will be little/no time to support preparing at this stage in the course.
- We recognise that you may feel anxious about attending, and we understand this. We wish to reassure you that the exam boards have stated you will not be disadvantaged. You need to make a decision based on your own and your family's wishes.

To assist you further and to give you confidence that much thought has been put into ensuring your safety here are the additional measures that will be in place.

- Students should arrive on site 15 minutes before the exam start time.
- Masks will be worn when entering and moving around the building.

- Hands must be sanitized when entering the building.
- Temperatures upon entry will be taken.
- Socially distanced seating for pre-exam briefing will be arranged.
- Entrance to the hall will be wearing masks and seats in the exam hall allocated.
- All desks will be sanitised prior to students entering.
- Laptops will be sanitised.
- Own equipment must be brought to the exam.
- Papers will be put on desks using gloves prior to entry.
- Invigilators will be wearing masks.
- Students may keep masks on or wear visors during the exam if they wish.
- Papers will be collected using gloves by invigilators wearing masks
- Students will be asked to leave in a spaced manner
- Students should immediately leave the site, any lingering will be discouraged.

We are aware that this is a really worrying time, it is our intention to do what we think is the right thing and give you this opportunity. There is a lot of information here for you to think through.

Here is some supporting information from the Exam Boards, a link for [Pearson](#).

**OCR have published the following statement:**

We know this is a challenging time for you and your students. We will work to support you whatever decisions you reach, which will depend on the circumstances of each school or college.

Our priority is to ensure students are not disadvantaged. We know students and teachers have been working hard towards the January exams and many will want to take the opportunity to sit them.

If your students do not take our exams this January, there are options:

1. There may be an opportunity to take their assessment at a future date. If this is not possible due to arrangements still to be announced for this summer, we'll work with the DfE and Ofqual to make sure they are treated fairly.
2. If students were going to certificate in January, we'll award a grade to a student if there is enough evidence, to help them progress.

If you are planning on attending then we look forward to seeing you, and ensuring that you are well looked after and feel safe.

If you make the decision not to attend please email the [College office](#) by 4pm on the day before your exam at the latest. If you have any questions please email [llucas@salisbury6c.ac.uk](mailto:llucas@salisbury6c.ac.uk).

In the meantime, S6C continues to monitor the news and information regarding the infection rates. If we feel the decision to run the examinations is impacted by numbers reported we will immediately inform you.

Please above all else, keep safe.

Yours sincerely



Lisa Lucas  
Exam Officer