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Principal: Mrs Anne Davis

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7th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to confirm the decision I have made as a college with regards to the current vocational exams planned to take place this term.

To inform our decision I have considered the guidance from the exam board, consulted staff teaching vocational subjects, opened the consultation to parents and students, discussed with the Senior Leadership Team and spoken to the Chair of Governors. Thank you for all your responses to the consultation - less than 10% of responders indicated they wanted the exams to go ahead.

Therefore, I have decided that the vocational exams will not go ahead as originally planned. This includes all subjects, exam boards and year groups.

I hope this decision will offer reassurance and alleviate some of the anxiety about exams during this unprecedented situation. I understand that this decision may not be the outcome that all students and parents were hoping for but as a college we have to prioritise the safety and well being of our students and I believe that this decision is the best way to do this.

As mentioned in the email sent to you with the details of the consultation, the exam board have assured us that students will not be disadvantaged by this decision and we will ensure that the hard work and dedication that students have shown to their studies at DSTC will be rewarded.

It is not yet known the exact method that will determine how student grades will be calculated. For Year 11 and Year 13 students it is likely that these grades will be generated using teacher assessment over the coming months and guidance as to the situation for Year 10 and Year 12 students is expected shortly.

As soon as I have more information I will write to you again with details of the next steps.

Thank you for your continued support during this difficult time, students should continue to work diligently as any work they complete between now and the summer will contribute to the final grade.

Regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Davis", written in a cursive style.

Anne Davis
Principal

