



23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In light of the recent statements made by the NI Executive and the UK Government to cancel all GCSE and GCE exams this year, I am writing to update you based on the limited information we have received from the Governments and Examining Boards.

To date we have been informed that all exams will be cancelled in May and June and all students should do no further work on Controlled Assessment, Coursework and any other Practical Activities (please see quote from CCEA statement received on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March). **Therefore, your daughter does not need to continue with any new coursework or controlled assessment tasks.**

*'Further to the CCEA communication to centres on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2020 regarding the summer examinations 2020, we advise you that students should do no further work on their Controlled Assessment, coursework and other practical activities' (CCEA)*

We have not received any details on how results will be calculated and awarded to your daughter but they have indicated that:

*'They will find a solution that will ensure that candidates receive fair results that enable judgements to be made about progression to study A' Levels or study at a Further Education Institution. CCEA has a range of tried and tested methods for awarding grades. They will prioritise solutions for A-level examinations, then GCSE terminal examinations, the AS qualifications and finally modular GCSE. They will also work with other Examination Boards to ensure consistency.'* (CCEA)

We will update you as and when CCEA, other Awarding Bodies and the Governments provide us with clear information on how Grades will be awarded to all candidates.

We fully appreciate this is a very worrying time for you and your daughter as a result of this unprecedented situation. Please be patient and allow the Examining Boards and Government to develop a robust and fair system so that the pupils in our school receive the results that they deserve based on the hard work that they produced over the last year and half.

The Education Minister and Exam Boards will work with schools to ensure that schools are fully aware of how to proceed and have indicated that students will not be disadvantaged in any way.

Finally, whilst exams have been cancelled, I would strongly advise your daughter to continue studying, as ongoing learning will always benefit your daughter as she continues her studies either in our school, another school or in a Further Education Institution.



# ST. MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

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The Post 16 Options was completed in February and those pupils who indicated a return to St Mary's to study at Post 16, have completed her subject choices, these will be finalised later in the year.

We are all very disappointed that our Year 12 pupils will not have the opportunity to complete the exams that they have worked so hard for, but the health and safety of all pupils and staff is paramount during this very difficult time.

Please see link below for more information from Government.

We appreciate your continued support and patience during this very challenging time for all of us.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020/coronavirus-covid-19-cancellation-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2020>

Yours faithfully

Miss D Crawley

Principal



Specialist Schools  
And Academic Trust  
Excellence and Diversity



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in People

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Wellbeing  
Award

