

Dear Parents/Carers,

We understand how unsettling the past few days may have been for your child, since the announcement that schools will be closing until at least February half term and the uncertainty over the January examination series. As you are aware your child was due to sit their R081 OCR iMedia paper on Monday 11th January @ 1pm. After a great deal of consideration I have made the decision to withdraw the students from this exam.

My rationale behind this decision is my concern regarding the students going into their very first external examination without having any face to face teaching since before Christmas - we will have missed up to 5 hours of revision this week - and following a period of uncertainty and worry. I strongly believe the mental impact of this would adversely affect the majority of Year 10 students when sitting an exam. As the summer examination series is cancelled there will be no resit opportunity in June, therefore their next chance to sit the exam would be 12 months later. I hope you agree that it makes much more sense to enter students for the January 2022 series with a resit option in June 2022 if they do not achieve their target grade.

My over-riding aim is to make sure that students are not disadvantaged in their progress during KS4 and are able to proceed to sixth form, college, apprenticeships, training or work despite these unprecedented conditions. The goal is to ensure that our students can receive their deserved grades in their qualifications in the summer of Year 11 so they can progress to the next stages of their lives without further disruption.

I know that the students will have been working towards this exam and I do not wish for them to feel disappointed, I would like to reassure them that it is not time wasted and over the next two terms we will continue to consolidate their learning to give them a really strong foundation for their exam next year.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me via email d.nixon@olcc.lancs.sch.uk

I wish you and your family well and look forward to welcoming your child back to school as soon as it is safe to do so.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Nixon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr D Nixon

Subject Leader for Computing and Technology