



Edmonton County School

Educating our Community for Success

8th January 2021

Cancellation of summer 2020 public examinations for Years 11,12 and 13

Dear Parents / Carers, and students in Years 11, 12 and 13,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

On Monday 4th January, the Prime Minister announced that school closures "*will mean it's not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer, as normal*". On Wednesday 6th January, the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, announced that the summer 2021 public examinations for GCSEs, AS Levels and A Levels will be cancelled, and be replaced by a "*form of teacher-assessed grades*". [Education Secretary statement to Parliament on national lockdown - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/education-secretary-statement-to-parliament-on-national-lockdown)
Please note that (currently) examinations in BTEC and vocational courses will still be going ahead, including those in January. Students and parents will be contacted individually about the arrangements for these.

There will now be a consultation period with schools led by Ofqual and the exam boards. Until this process is complete, it is not possible to second-guess how the process of teacher assessments will work, nor the timings of these assessments. It is also currently unclear when Ofqual and the Department for Education will announce the outcome of this consultation. **Please do not contact class teachers as they will not be entering into discussions with parents and students about teacher-assessed grades.**

For students in Years 11, 12 and 13 who were expecting to sit public examinations this year, I appreciate that this may be a worrying and unsettling time. However, we have been consistent in our message to Year 11-13 students since the start of the year that they should try their hardest in lessons (including online lessons), homework, revision and independent study and must understand that all school assessments and exams may have a bearing on exam outcomes in the summer. Although we have had to cancel the January pre-public exams (PPEs) for Year 11, students in Years 11-13 will need to sit at least one series of PPEs once schools are able to re-open, to ensure that we have the most reliable and up-to-date evidence of students' achievement and progress. This means that now, more than ever, Year 11-13 students should be focused on their studies.

Our model for remote, online learning for Years 11-13 (which started this week) will follow students' usual school timetables and consist of roughly 50% 'live' lessons (delivered via Microsoft Teams) combined with 50% of independent learning tasks to be completed by students (set via Show My Homework). It is vital that all students attend all the Teams lessons and complete the work set subsequently. Whilst we will be closely monitoring 'attendance', participation and completion of work, parents have a key role to play in ensuring that their child is accessing the school's provision and making good progress. Parents should also check that their children have up-to-date login details for the relevant online platforms. To resolve problems with login details, please click [here](#) to report an issue.

School closures mean that all Sixth Form providers will need to re-consider their application deadlines. **Please note that the application deadline for ECS Sixth Form has been extended to 25th January**, but students should contact other providers for up-to-date information.

Edmonton County School is part of Edmonton Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 10311383. The registered office is at Great Cambridge Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 1HQ.

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In these uncertain times it is important that we all remain calm, and students should do their best not to worry. I am sure that you will understand that these are also difficult times for school leaders and teachers. We will continue to do our very best to provide parents and students with updates and guidance as soon as the Government provides them to schools, and we are committed to achieving the best outcomes for all our students.

Thank you for your continued support. Please contact info@edact.org.uk with any enquiries.

Stay safe and well,

Paul Miller,
Head of School



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