

Dear Y11, Y12 Level 2 and Y13 Learners,

URGENT UPDATE

At 18:42 this evening we received the following guidance update from the DfE

Vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs)

In light of the evolving public health measures, schools and colleges can continue with the vocational and technical exams that are due to take place in January, where they judge it right to do so.

This means the DfE has now put the difficult decision as to whether the January exams will take place into the hands of Schools and Colleges. As yet we have not been provided with any guidance nor information as to what is required to make our informed decision.

However, we recognise:

- The latest Covid infection figures published by [Public Health England](#) need to be taken into account. In terms of the pandemic, these figures show Newham as the capital's second worst-affected borough, with the most up to date figures showing Newham to be at 1,275.2 per 100,000 people.
- Our learners and staff use public transport which increases exposure to Covid-19.
- We have received numerous emails and message from learners and parents asking for the exams to be cancelled due to their concerns.
- When talking about GCSE and A Levels, the Prime Minister has stated that it is not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead as normal and that alternative measures will be put in place. We have reviewed how equitable it would be for our learners at LDE UTC to sit their vocational exams this January when A Level and GCSE exams are no longer taking place.

Given the inequitable nature of how GCSE, A Level and technical examinations are being treated, the increased number of Covid-19 cases within Newham and the concerns raised by all our stakeholders, we believe that our learners should not sit their exams this January. **Therefore, all January exams will be cancelled with immediate effect.**

We apologise for the short notice, particularly as some of you would have been due to sit exams tomorrow.

We await further guidance from the DfE as to what alternative measures will be put in place.

For this reason, it remains imperative that you keep up with any and all work associated with internally assessed units so that staff have recent and relevant work on which to base calculations.

Please keep safe.



Geoffrey Fowler
Principal & CEO