



**Buckler's Mead**  
ACADEMY

**Educating with care to succeed**

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Dear Parents/Guardians

### **Year 11 Exam Update**

Thank you for your continued support over the past seven days and the feedback that you have sent in. It is our desire to ensure all students are accessing remote learning and are supported so they can continue to do so.

If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to make contact via your child's tutor or by emailing [remotelarninghelpdesk@bucklersmeadacademy.com](mailto:remotelarninghelpdesk@bucklersmeadacademy.com).

Similarly, if you require a place in our Key Worker/Vulnerable Learner group in the academy, please contact [keyworkers@bucklersmeadacademy.com](mailto:keyworkers@bucklersmeadacademy.com).

Following the announcement last week that GCSE exams would be cancelled, I would like to provide you with further updates. The Chief Regulator for Ofqual has released a statement:

- Students should continue to engage in their education to put them in the best position to receive a positive grade and prepare them for Post 16 pathways.
- Discussions are in place with DfE to finalise alternative arrangements for the awarding grades and updates to follow.
- Colleges and schools can continue with January BTEC examinations if it is right to do so.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/a-message-from-simon-lebus-chief-regulator-on-exams-in-2021>



**Acting Headteacher: Mr M Lawrence BSc Hons.**

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There has also been speculation in the media, over the weekend that students could be asked to sit 'mini exams' set by the examination boards, to be completed remotely or face to face in the summer. These tests would be marked by teachers and moderated by exam boards. The grades from these would be used alongside class assessment to form a final GCSE grade. Although arrangements like these seem highly feasible, Ofqual have not confirmed alternative arrangements yet and further guidance is expected shortly. However, what is noticeably clear from all the information is that Year 11s have not completed their studies and will be expected to continue until the summer either remotely, face to face or a combination of the two.

With this in mind, in advance of any further announcements, Buckler's Mead Academy would like to make parents/guardians and students aware of the following updates and guidance:

- All Year 11s will be expected to continue to follow their timetable remotely (in most cases), submitting tasks on time and participate in full time learning.
- Teachers are checking that all students have submitted work and logging this on Class Charts. Students not engaging in the work will be contacted by the academy in addition to check-in phone calls that are being made by tutors.
- We are making arrangements for a Virtual Mock Exam Week to take place week beginning Monday 25 January 2021. Students will receive an updated mock exam timetable and will be asked to complete an exam(s) for each of their subjects and submit online. More information on the logistics to follow.
- Teachers will be setting work to revise and help them prepare for the mocks over the next two weeks. Students should also revise independently of lessons to prepare for these.
- All Year 11s should start to finalise their Post 16 choices and submit applications. Representatives for colleges and training providers are available to respond to queries. More information can be found on their websites.
- For students sitting the BTEC Sport course, we are awaiting further guidance from Pearson and will inform you accordingly. Our current understanding is that the exam in February may still go ahead as planned and students should continue to revise and prepare for this.

I hope this gives you some more clarity moving forwards. We will endeavour to keep you up to date with guidance and information as we receive it. In the meantime, we ask that students spend the next couple of weeks revising and preparing for the virtual mock exams as well as looking to finalise their Post 16 plans.

Yours faithfully



Mr P Balkwill  
Acting Deputy Headteacher