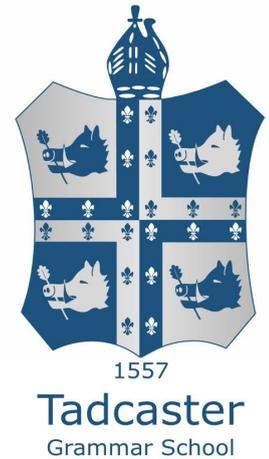


# Be Your Best Self

Wednesday 6th January 2021 - 6pm



Dear Parents and Carers (& Year 11 & 13 students),

## **Vocational Qualifications (VQ) Examinations Update (Cambridge Nationals [Year 11 - Sports Studies] and Cambridge Technical Award [Year 13 - IT])**

After another day of frenetic activity in the House of Commons and associated announcements by the Department for Education, I felt I needed to write to you as soon as possible to share the following:

**Vocational qualifications examinations [Year 11 - Sports Studies] and Cambridge Technical Award [Year 13 - IT] will not take place at Tadcaster Grammar School in January 2021.**

At this stage the VQ examination boards have confirmed that students who do not sit the January exam will not be disadvantaged as they will still be awarded a grade in summer. If students in other schools do not sit the exams and a decision is taken to determine their grades based on coursework components (where students generally perform better) this could disadvantage some of our students who do sit the exam if their result has to be included and they're not satisfied with it.

Students who are disappointed with mock grades or current performance and have been working hard towards this month's exam should not be concerned as they will have an opportunity to sit more ongoing assessments internally to demonstrate their progress.

None of the VQ courses we run provide our students with a "licence to practise" qualification which can only be gained through practical assessment.

The health and safety of our students, their families, our staff and our community must also be our priority during this national emergency. This decision has been made in consultation with teaching and leadership colleagues in school, Sherburn High School and our MAT CEO. We have also waited for the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, to update Parliament this afternoon in relation to examinations.

I understand this will not please everyone, especially the students who have worked so incredibly hard to prepare and who continue to show such resilience. Of course, this work and application will not have been in vain as it will support the student assessment method for summer 2021.

I hope you understand our rationale and we are sorry that students have to experience another change to their planned learning and assessment as a result of government policy.

If you have any queries, please contact Mr Andy Sykes (Senior Assistant Headteacher)  
a.sykes@tgs.starmat.uk

Kind regards,

**Mr A Parkinson**  
**Headteacher**