

PRINCIPAL: S.W. BLACK, M.Sc.



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9<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.

**To: Parent/Guardian of pupils in YEARS 11, 12, 13 and 14 (2020/2021)**

Dear Parent,

**Delivery of GCSE, 'AS' and 'A' Level qualifications**

The Education Minister has today announced proposals for assessment in Northern Ireland for this academic year and, as suggested in my correspondence yesterday, it remains his intention to hold examinations at GCSE and 'A' Level with some modifications to assessment. He has also asked schools to forward the attached letter and Frequently Asked Questions information sheet to you as parents.

It is helpful that we now have some clarity, albeit belatedly, and it is noteworthy that the Education Minister has agreed to some alteration of specifications and assessment for examinations to be taken in 2020-2021. However, we still await the subject specific detail from CCEA which is essential in order that we can support and advise our young people on the way forward.

Once further information has been received, we will inform you and your son/daughter of any changes which may affect their courses.

The fact that we still have considerable uncertainty around all of this seven weeks into the academic year is less than satisfactory but please be assured that everyone in Ballymena Academy is doing their utmost to ensure that our pupils will be prepared and well-equipped for the assessments which follow.

With best wishes for the weekend.

Yours faithfully,

S.W. Black (Principal)



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