



ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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By Email

2nd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your families are well and I am delighted that your child will be joining us in school once again during the week of the 8th March. I am writing to inform you about the implications for 'Year 10 Option D' following the announcements on 25th February from the Department for Education and Ofqual.

As you are aware, our original intention was for all Year 10 pupils to take their assessment for Option D in summer 2021. However, as a result of the disruption to learning over the last two academic years caused by the school closures, we have decided that it is in the best interests of our pupils that they delay assessment of their Option D subjects until summer 2022. Pupils will not therefore be entered for the qualification this year and will continue to study their Option D subject next academic year.

Our rationale for this decision is as follows: one of the expectations outlined in the Ofqual guidance is that "students have completed sufficient content to enable them to progress to the next stage of their education". Year 10 pupils have been out of school for a significant proportion of the last 12 months. Students and teachers have worked incredibly hard to ensure that the remote teaching and learning is as good as possible but it is no substitute for 'face to face' teaching. Unlike Year 11 and 13 pupils, it is possible to delay the assessment for Year 10s. Delaying assessment until summer 2022, will enable your child to access the full curriculum, rather than curtailing the curriculum content to meet the demands of the assessment process this academic year. It is our belief that if all pupils are able to study the entirety of the curriculum for their chosen subject, they will be far better equipped to progress to the next stage of their education.

Yours sincerely

Alex Rosen
Acting Head of School