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6 January 2021

To Parents/Carers/Students of  
The Roseland Multi Academy Trust

Dear Parent, Carers and Students

I would like to pass on my thanks, as well as from all schools within the Trust, for your support and understanding with the last minute changes which have occurred at the start of this term due to the latest national lockdown.

Following today's announcement from the Education Secretary, the DfE has decided not to cancel January vocational exams but allow educational institutions the autonomy to decide if it is safe for students to attend school to undertake their assessments. We do not understand why this decision has been passed on as the government has closed schools, initiated another national lockdown and instructed people to stay at home due to the increased risk of the transmission of the new COVID-19 variant. Therefore, upon reviewing our own risk assessments and taking into account the above, we feel that by asking students to attend school to undertake assessments this could easily increase both transmission and risk within our communities. The Roseland Multi Academy Trust has therefore taken the collective decision to cancel all vocational exams that were due to take place in January 2021. We are aware similar decisions have been made by other local schools and colleges.

We understand the need to keep schools open for vulnerable students and children of critical workers and this provision continues in all schools, with a plan to Covid test on a regular basis.

We know that our students have been working hard towards their exams and we ask that they all continue to positively engage in their remote learning. The exam boards have said that students will not be disadvantaged by not sitting exams during January. As soon as we have more information about how grades will be awarded this year we will communicate this to you.

We will continue to work together and I thank you all for your ongoing support during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely

**Chris Challis**  
**Chief Executive Officer**

