

# ABBOT'S LEA SCHOOL

Headteacher: Mrs Ania Hildrey, M.Ed, B.Ed(Hons), NPQH



19 May 2021

Dear Families

## Ref: Exams 2021

I write to formally update you on the progress of exams taking place at Abbot's Lea School this year.

Despite the challenges caused by the pandemic, our students have been prepared fully for the exams. This included teaching, working through the course content, answering practice questions and taking mock exams throughout the year.

All students in years 11, 12, 13 and 14 who were able and ready to engage, have been completing Functional Skills exams this week.

This included:

- Monday, 17 May 2021 - Functional Skills Maths papers (calculator and non-calculator) at 9:30am
- Tuesday, 18 May 2021 - Functional Skills English (reading and writing) at 9:30am and 12:30pm.

Regrettably, today's Functional Skills ICT exam encountered major technical difficulties and the invigilators had to make a difficult decision to postpone this exam. The online module did not permit the students to download the essential support materials they are entitled to and so, it is my view that the invigilators were correct in their decision.

We have logged the problem with Open Awards (the accrediting body) and we now await the resolution to those technical difficulties. We hope that we will be able to hold this exam early next week. As soon as we have an answer, I will write to update you. If we cannot hold the exam before the half term break, it will take place in Term 6.

Next week, as planned, the students will be undertaking a Speaking, Listening and Communication exam on Tuesday 25 May 2021 and Wednesday 26 May 2021. This will involve the students having a 1:1 discussion on a set topic and then, a small group activity between 3 to 4 students. This will be hosted in the familiar classroom setting, rather than the hall and the class teams will invigilate.

If for whatever reason, any student was unable to engage with the exams this term (due to absence or other personal reasons), they will have another opportunity to do so next term, with the following alternative dates already agreed:

- Monday, 28 June 2021 Functional Skills Maths papers (calculator and non-calculator) at 9:30am
- Tuesday, 29 June 2021 Functional Skills English (reading and writing) at 9:30am and 12:30pm
- Wednesday, 30 June 2021 Functional Skills ICT at 9:30am.

In recognition of this year being interrupted for many of our students due to the pandemic, we have taken a decision that all students, even if they did successfully sit the May exams, will have another opportunity to take the same exams in Term 6.

For those sitting the same exam twice, the best grade will be awarded.

Additionally, for all students who remain with us next year, we will extend another opportunity to engage with the accredited learning in 2021-22.

Students progressing to other educational establishments at the end of this school year will also have such opportunities extended to them by their Further Education provider.

Lastly, I want to let you know that we have been very impressed with our students' conduct, their maturity, composure and the support they have shown to their peers this week. We are very proud of them!

If you have any questions regarding this year's exams, please contact:

**For Key Stage 4 students:**

Mr Matthew Lyons KS4 Leader

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**For Key Stage 5 students:**

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Yours sincerely



Mrs A Hildrey  
Headteacher