



## Richmond upon Thames College

Dear Student/Apprentice

You may be aware that yesterday (Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January) evening, the Government announced that vocational exams scheduled for this month can go ahead and that colleges and schools are able to make their own decisions as to whether to continue with these exams. We have considered the position very carefully and, given the rising numbers of COVID-19 cases and our primary concern to keep our students/apprentices and staff safe, the College has made the decision to cancel the vocational exams scheduled for this term. This is with the exception of a small number (not all) of the scheduled AAT and Plumbing exams, which will be going ahead as scheduled in a COVID-secure way. For those qualifications, lecturers will be in touch with learners shortly to clarify the arrangements.

We appreciate that you will have put a lot of work into preparing for these exams and that this decision might come as a disappointment to you. However, we must put safety first. Please also be aware that these exams are normally repeated in the summer and it is currently the Government's plan that this will be the case in 2021. We therefore anticipate that we will be able to run these exams this summer and you will not be disadvantaged. We recognise that for some apprentices there will be a need to complete End Point Assessments sooner rather than later – we and your employers will be in touch to confirm any alternative arrangements.

If you have any concerns about this or any other aspect of your learning and assessment, please contact your Tutor in the first instance.

Kind regards

Jason Jones  
Deputy Principal/CEO, Curriculum & Quality