

Chief Executive's Office

Dear Principal,

We welcome the clarity from the Minister of Education regarding school closures and cancellation of the summer examinations timetable. We also appreciate the hard work of school leaders during this challenging time.

We'd like to reassure you that CCEA will continue to work urgently with the Department of Education and other stakeholders, to finalise a solution for examinations. We fully appreciate the uncertainty that students and teachers are experiencing and recognise the need to provide clarity, as soon as possible.

Any solution we provide must:

- Ensure that candidates receive fair results that enable judgements to be made about progression to further or higher education, employment or other routes;
- Limit the impact, as far as possible, on the summer 2020 exams series, to avoid knock-on effects on future examinations and qualifications arrangements;
- Balance the inherent delivery risks with the opportunities afforded by other arrangements; and
- Minimise uncertainty for students, parents, teachers, school leaders and the wider public, whilst maintaining public confidence in the examination systems.

CCEA, as you are aware, has a range of tried and tested methods for awarding grades. We will explore these and other options with our UK colleagues.

We will prioritise solutions for A-level examinations, then GCSE terminal examinations, the AS qualifications and finally modular GCSE. In parallel, we will work with other awarding organisations so our approaches are similar. We will also work with vocational qualification providers to ensure there are solutions for those qualifications.

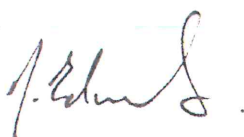
Immediately, CCEA will cease Non-Exam Assessment (NEA). Schools must retain all information and evidence already produced.

A helpline for schools and colleges, has been set up and is available from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm (Monday to Friday). This helpline is to provide guidance to **Head of Centres** and **school Examinations Officers** during this period. The **CCEA helpline** direct number is **028 90 261220**.

In these unprecedented circumstances, we recognise that the decisions we have to take will be challenging. However, I assure you that we will be guided by examination experts and will ensure that our solution is fair and as reliable as possible.

We will continue to update you as further information is available.

Yours faithfully,



Justin Edwards
CCEA Chief Executive