FROM THE OFFICE OF THE MINISTER

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Dear Parents, Guardians and Students

DELIVERY OF GCSE, AS AND A LEVEL QUALIFICATIONS IN 2020/21

I wrote last week to inform you of my decisions around changes to qualifications and I wanted to write to you again today, as I know many of you continue to be concerned about this issue. I have enclosed a factsheet, which I hope will provide clear information on arrangements for each year group due to sit examinations this year.

I am very conscious that these are not ordinary circumstances and that education continues to be disrupted. The public health situation is changing quickly and after a very successful and positive reopening of schools, we are now facing rising numbers of cases of COVID-19. The changes I announced last week set out the initial arrangements for exams and assessments across GCSE and A Level qualifications. I want to reassure you that I will keep the position under review. I have commissioned CCEA, the body responsible for exams in Northern Ireland, to develop back-up plans, which will be ready if they are needed.

I give you my firm commitment that every effort will be made to ensure that young people will not be disadvantaged by the COVID-19 pandemic and that outcomes for young people sitting GCSEs and A Levels in 2020/21 will be similar to other years.

Yours faithfully

Peter Weir

PETER WEIR MLA
MINISTER OF EDUCATION