



Dear Learner/Parent/Carer

I am writing to update you on the latest position for the awarding of vocational and technical qualifications (VTQ's). Yesterday (14th May) we received an announcement from Ofqual with the latest guidance, the guidance covers:

- Qualifications used for progression to further or higher education
- Qualifications signalling occupational competence

For vocational qualifications, used for progression to further or higher education, the guidance details that, as far as possible, qualifications in this category should be treated in the same way as GCSEs, AS and A levels, **with learners receiving a calculated result**, so that they are not disadvantaged.

For qualifications that signal occupational competence (where there are professional or health and safety implications, e.g. hairdressing, electrical installation), awarding organisations are still finalising details for awarding these qualifications. This may include adaptations to the assessment, that are suitable and practical under the current public health restrictions. Where adaptations are unable to be made, this may mean there is a delay to completing the assessment.

How will I know which category and which approach will be used for the qualifications I am studying?

Awarding organisations will be in touch with the college by the end of May. At this point, the college will send further information to you, confirming the approach being taken, specifically for your qualification.

Will this approach only apply to me if I am completing a course this academic year?

Where learners would have been assessed on units or components of qualifications this spring and summer, that lead to certification next academic year, the approach of calculating results or adapting assessments will also apply.

How will this affect apprentices?

The Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education has set out guidance outlining what flexibility there may be in adapting assessments where the rescheduling or delay of an End Point Assessment (EPA) would cause hardship to the apprentice, and has confirmed that approaches to calculate results cannot be used with EPAs.

Apprentices taking other vocational and technical qualifications as part of their apprenticeships may find their results are calculated or assessments are adapted, as they will be for learners taking these qualifications outside of apprenticeships.

When will I receive my results?

We expect the results of vocational and technical qualifications to be awarded no later than A levels and GCSEs – that's 13 and 20 August respectively. This is so that no learner, who is hoping to progress onto further or higher education, is disadvantaged.

However, not all results will be issued on these 2 days; some that have historically been issued in the weeks before A level and GCSE results days may still be issued earlier this year. These will be determined by the awarding organisations and we will provide further information to you when available.

For further information about the awarding of qualifications, you can find the published guidance from Ofqual here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/881109/Summer_2020_results_for_vocational_technical_and_other_qualifications_UPDATE_24APR2020_.pdf

Will I still be able to progress next year?

Yes, the internal progression process is currently taking place throughout May and June. Your Progress Tutor will contact you to discuss your chosen destination for next year. If you have not yet been contacted about your progression opportunities, don't worry, you will be contacted by the 31st May.

The government has said that students can return to college from the 1st June. Will I have to come back to college?

In the majority of cases learning will continue to be delivered remotely for the rest of this academic year. If there is an opportunity to access the college to complete your qualification, we will contact you directly about this. Ensuring a safe environment for all learners and staff, is our primary concern and no learner will be disadvantaged, should they not be returning to campus this academic year.

Can the college still support me with my additional support needs, mental health and wellbeing?

Yes, ensuring you have the right support is important to us. The college has a range of services to support you with additional learning support needs, your mental health and wellbeing. Information about how to access our support services and other external support services, can be found here: http://docs.loucoll.ac.uk/Student%20Documents/COVID-19/004570_Safeguarding%20and%20Wellbeing%20Support%20A4_proof2%20-%20COVID.pdf

Thank you for your patience and I can assure you that we are working as fast as we can to ensure that all learners can complete their programmes, under the guidance from Ofqual and the awarding organisations.

Yours Sincerely



Heather Clarke
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