



Ref: SCL/JGD

November 2021

ALL YEAR 11 PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSE Exams – Summer 2022

We have received further guidance from Ofqual regarding GCSE examinations for summer 2022. Below is a brief summary of proposals from Ofqual:

The government is clear that students entering GCSEs, AS or A levels in 2022 should expect to take exams in the summer and complete any non-exam assessments in the usual way throughout the year.

In recognition of the fact that students' education has been disrupted by the pandemic, they will be given extra help to prepare for their exams as follows, as confirmed following a joint DfE and Ofqual consultation:

- *students taking GCSEs in English literature, history, ancient history and geography will not need to cover the usual range of content in the exams – the exam boards have published information on their websites on how this will work for each of their specifications in these subjects. Students taking GCSEs in all other subjects will be given advance information about the focus of the content of the exams to support their revision*
- *students taking GCSE mathematics will be given in their exams copies of formulae they would in other years have to memorise*
- *students taking GCSE physics and combined science (physics papers only) will be given in their exams a sheet covering all the equations they might need to apply in the exams*

*The advance information for GCSE will be published no later than **7 February 2022**. The government will decide whether the advance information should be published earlier. The government will take account of the level of disruption to students' education being caused by the pandemic if it decides that advance information should be published before 7 February 2022. It will give at least a week's notice if it decides exam boards should publish the information before that date.*

Some changes have also been made to the way non-exam assessments that are used in some GCSE, AS and A level subjects are taken, to address difficulties that might otherwise be caused by the pandemic.

Ofqual has decided that for the exams due to be taken in summer 2022, grade boundaries will be set so that more students than was the case before the pandemic receive higher grades, providing a safety net for students in this transitional year.

Contingency plans

Although the government is firmly committed to exams going ahead in summer 2022, we need to have contingency plans in place for the unlikely event that exams have to be cancelled again because of the pandemic. The guidance sets out what teachers should do during the remainder of the academic year 2021 to 2022, until exams are taken, as a contingency. It follows the outcome of a consultation on contingency arrangements.

*If exams had to be cancelled in summer 2022, students' grades would instead be determined by their teachers, using a **Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) approach** similar to that used in summer 2021. TAGs are based on teachers' assessment of their students' work.*

This guidance is intended to support centres to take a proportionate approach to gathering evidence that would be used to inform TAGs if necessary. Where possible, centres' existing assessment plans should be used.

Teachers should continue to assess their students in line with the guidance, to gather the evidence they would use to determine TAGs should they be needed. For many centres, the necessary assessments will likely already be planned to take place to support students' learning and help them prepare for summer exams. Many lessons were learned during the 2021 examination season.

As a school we have published the complete guidance on our website, but we wanted to assure you that our plans for scheduling internal assessment under 'high control' (Mock Examinations) and our ongoing in-class assessments fall completely in line with the expectations of Ofqual and the Examination Boards.

A letter from Dr Jo Saxton – Ofqual's Chief Regulator will be issued to all Year 11 and 10 students and is also available on our website.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Carroll
Deputy Head