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To students and parents/carers of Years 11, 13 and those being examined in Year 12

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

Examinations 2022

I am writing to update you about the recent announcements from Ofqual and the Department of Education regarding examinations in 2022. As expected, it was confirmed that the government's plan is for public examinations to go ahead in 2022. There is recognition that nationally, students have had a disrupted two years and so measures have been put in place to ensure that students are not disadvantaged.

What measures have been put in place?

- A choice in content for GCSE English Literature, History and Geography. This will reduce the number of topics that students are taught this year.
- GCSE and A Level Art and Design assessed by portfolio only i.e. there will be no exam.
- Students will be given a formula sheet for GCSE mathematics and a revised formula sheet for GCSE physics and combined science.
- Centres will be able to assess students in A Level sciences in the common practical assessments (CPAC) across the minimum number of practicals.
- There have been changes to Non Examined Assessment (i.e. coursework) in some subjects and these changes were already confirmed in the summer.
- Advance information about the focus of the content of the exams for all GCSE, AS and A level subjects (except GCSE English literature, history, and geography) will be given for summer exams in early February. This will enable students to tailor their revision for their examinations. The timing of this release of information will be kept under review in case the course of the pandemic worsens.

When will GCSE, A level and vocational examinations be taking place?

Examinations will take place in May and June, as normal. The Joint Council for Qualifications will announce dates shortly.



How will students be graded?

For the past two years, as examinations have not taken place, students have been awarded grades by their schools. Due to the differences in assessment approaches, we have seen higher outcomes. As we return to examinations, Ofqual would like to return to pre-pandemic grade levels but not in one jump. Therefore, 2022 results will be a transition year, and results are likely to be higher than in 2019 but not as high as in 2020 and 2021. Ofqual are aiming for results to be in line with 2019 outcomes by 2023.

When will students get their results?

A level and Level 3 vocational results will be on August 18th 2022 and GCSE and Level 2 vocational results will be on August 25th 2022.

What if there are further disruptions to school as a result of Covid-19?

Should the course of pandemic worsen, the 'plan B' for results this year will be a return to Teacher Assessed Grades, as was the case last year. There is currently a consultation underway as to the nature of this. In any event, students should be aware that should this mode of assessment be used, the work they are doing now may be used as part of their final grade. As such, formal assessments such as the forthcoming trial exams for Year 11 and 13 should be taken seriously and may count toward final grades next year.

I hope this letter has been helpful to you. I will continue to write to you to keep you updated with any new announcements in relation to examinations next year.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Caroline Creaby
Deputy Headteacher