

8<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Though I hope to be writing to you less than in the last 18 months about Covid-19 arrangements, I think it is important that parents/carers and students are kept up to date with developments relating to the summer exams in 2022.

Therefore, I am writing to inform you of the proposal being put forward by the Department for Education (DfE) and the Office of Qualifications and Exam Regulations (Ofqual) regarding the GCSE and Advanced Level examinations for summer 2022.

The starting point is that the DfE has stated that exams and assessments for GCSEs, AS and A levels, as well as for vocational and technical qualifications, should go ahead in summer 2022.

However, the DfE continue that these exams and assessments should be adjusted to take into account the disruption experienced by students.

These adjustments will be to the assessments themselves in some subjects but also additional support to reduce some of the pressure on teaching time and the pressure that students experience when revising for and sitting exams.

The DfE also want to ensure that there is sufficient flexibility in the exam arrangements to be able to respond to any further significant disruption to education over the coming year, whilst still enabling exams to go ahead.

In summary, these decisions mean that for summer 2022:

- There will be optional topics and content in GCSE English literature, history, and geography;
- Exam boards will provide advance information about the content of the exams for all GCSE, AS and A level subjects (except GCSE English literature, history, and geography) for the summer 2022 exams;
- The intention of providing this advance information is that it will support students' revision. Therefore, the DfE has confirmed that advance information will be provided by 7 February 2022 at the latest. This will enable teachers to plan to adapt their teaching in the second half of the spring term if necessary;
- Students taking GCSE, AS and A level art and design will be assessed on their portfolio only;
- Students will be given a formulae sheet for GCSE mathematics in summer 2022;
- Students will be given a revised equation sheet for GCSE physics and combined science in summer 2022, covering all the equations required in the subject content;
- Centres will be allowed to deliver practical work in GCSE biology, chemistry, physics, combined science, AS level biology, chemistry, physics, and AS and A level environmental science by demonstration;
- Centres will be allowed to assess the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) across the minimum number of practical activities required to enable students to demonstrate their competence in A level biology, chemistry and physics.

The DfE state that these adjustments, are designed to lessen the impact of the disruption that students have faced during the pandemic without undermining the value of their qualifications and their ability to progress successfully to further study.

These changes will apply to exams in 2022 and it is the intention that exams will go ahead as normal in 2023.

#### Additional Information:

- Ofqual is considering how best to grade qualifications next summer in a way that is as fair as possible to the 2022 cohort of students and also those who took exams in previous years or will take them in the future;
- Ofqual have therefore stated that grades will be lower than in 2020, but higher than 2019, when exams last took place. Indeed, they state, that grade distributions will be pitched at a midway point between pre-pandemic levels of 2019 and results in 2021;
- Results days will return to their normal dates where they are held over a two-week period, with Advanced level results released on 18 August and GCSEs on 25 August.

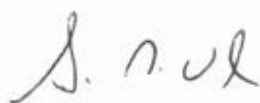
#### Conclusion

We are planning for exams to take place as the DfE suggests but we are also, as we were last year, prepared to adapt to any changes that may be brought in at a later date.

It is important to say that the best thing students in Year 11 and Year 13 can do is to continue to work with their teachers and produce work of their best standard. It is also in students best interests to make the most of additional learning opportunities available to them in terms of additional classes and support. In this way they are placing themselves in the best position for exams or any adaption to exams that take place.

Please be assured we will continue to support your children to the best of our ability and help them achieve their personal best grades.

Your faithfully



STEVE WILSON  
Headteacher