



16 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

Update on public examinations summer 2021

I promised that I would write to you to update you on the arrangements for public examinations in the summer of 2021. I had hoped for further clarification and guidance from the Department for Education and Ofqual, but this has not been forthcoming. What we do know is the following:

- Assessment arrangements for a number of subjects have already been adapted and demands reduced. Subject leaders will advise on these;
- There will be a three week delay to the start of the examination window to give students a little extra time in lessons before the examinations begin;
- Grading will be more generous and in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged;
- Students will receive advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE to focus revision;
- Exam aids – for example formula sheets – may be provided in some exams to give students more confidence and reduce the amount of information they need to memorise;
- There is a proposal to offer additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation;
- A new “expert” group will look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

Please note, to aid your planning, that Year 11 students will be required to be available to sit examinations until **Friday 16 July 2021**.

I am acutely aware of the disruption to learning that has continued into this term and we appreciate the significant impact that this has had on students’ confidence. This is very far from ideal for all of us, yet we will continue to support in order to give students the best opportunity of succeeding. We want the very best for our students and will strive to give them the best chances possible in summer 2021.

The government is still consulting on a number of the measures listed and we expect a confirmation of the plans early next term. We eagerly await further detail.

For the government’s announcement of these support measures, please see the following link:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summertime-exams>

We hope that this will aid our students who have already worked incredibly hard.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
Headteacher