

Tuesday 5th October

Subject: Assessments in Summer 2022

Dear parent/carer

I have been delighted by how well our year 11 students have settled into term, their determination to move forward from the pandemic and focus on aiming high in their exams.

As you may know, Ofqual, the exams regulator, has recently set out plans for assessments in the summer. The plans recognise that students have experienced significant disruption to their education and put in place additional support measures. These include:

- Advance information, in February 2022, about the focus of exams
- A choice of topics in some subjects, including English literature and History
- Aids, such as formulae sheets, allowed in some exams, such as Maths and Physics

Ofqual has also made an announcement on grade boundaries. This is because grades in 2021 and 2020 were higher than in previous years. Ofqual wants grades to return to more normal levels while also being fair to students taking exams this year. Therefore grade boundaries will be set between 2019 and 2021 levels – meaning, on average, students overall will achieve higher grades than before the pandemic (though not as high as in recent years), to reflect the recovery period when schools are returning to normal.

In the event that exams have to be cancelled again, teacher assessed grades will be used instead. However, Ofqual has been clear that this is very much a plan B and that everyone's focus is on preparing for exams.

Having decisions about exams at this early stage in the school year will give teachers time to prepare and to support your child to achieve their best. It is important students keep working hard, to learn the skills and knowledge they will need when they move on to their next stage of study, training or work. But having information about the exam content in February will help them to target their revision and manage any additional pressure they may feel because of the pandemic. Together, with the other measures in place, we are confident that they have the appropriate support in place this summer, and we will continue to do everything we can to help them.

Kind regards,



Mr R Mann