

Wednesday 9th February

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you know, the Government has confirmed that exams will go ahead this summer and, earlier this week, the Government announced a range of measures designed to make the assessments fairer for students who have been affected by the pandemic.

Amongst the measures is 'advanced information' about each subject which is being made public by the exam boards. The information varies by subject but may include, for example, a list of key topics or sections of text that will be included in exam papers. In addition, students will be able to take some notes into exams, such as formulae sheets. As you would expect, it will not be possible to determine specific questions from this information, but it will help students to target their revision over the weeks ahead. There have also been changes to the usual exam timetable, which will be less condensed than in other years.

The government has also said that grading will be more generous in the summer, to take account of the disruption to students' education over the past two years. Grade boundaries will be set at a midway point between 2019 and 2021, meaning more students will receive higher grades than was the case before the pandemic, while bringing grades closer into line with previous levels.

Now we have the certainty and information we need, our focus is on giving as much support as we possibly can to our students as they prepare for their exams. Over the coming weeks, we will be helping to reinforce their knowledge and skills so they feel confident and able to perform to their best on the day. Before half term, each student will be given a booklet detailing all the changes for each subject; Heads of Department will be disseminating the information during their lessons; revision sessions are in place after school; and mock examinations will reflect these changes.

While academic preparation is critical, it is also very important that we support students' welfare during the next few months. We know exams can be a source of anxiety for some young people and we will devote time during PHSE lessons to building their resilience and sharing techniques to support their wellbeing and help them stay positive.

All information about examinations is uploaded on our website here:

<https://www.corearena.academy/examinations/>. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Head of Year – Mr Jones – GJones@corearena.academy or any member of the senior leadership.

Kind regards



Mr R Mann
Headteacher