



Dear Parents and Carers of students in Year 11 and Year 13

## Exam Board Advance Information

You may be aware that on February 7<sup>th</sup> Exam Boards will be publishing advance information on the focus of the content of summer 2022 exams in the majority of subjects at GCSE and A-Level. This information will be freely available on exam board websites, teachers will not have sight of this before it is published. The publication of advance information by exam boards is unprecedented and it is intended to support students in the context of the disruption they have experienced in the last two years. The intention of the information is to enable teachers to:

- to adapt their teaching in the time before the examination; and
- help students focus their revision.

You can read JCQ's explanation of the purpose of the advanced information [here](#).

The purpose of this letter is to ask you to be cautious about how this information will be used at home. Once we have access to the advanced information, subject teams across the school will work to understand the implications for their teaching and also on the advice they give to students on revision. Rather than attempt individual interpretations of the advanced information, our advice to all students in Year 11 and Year 13 will be to wait until they are given clear guidance by their subject teachers. Teachers will be best placed to interpret the advanced information and understand the implications for how students prepare for exams in the summer.

**Contingency plan assessments:** You will recall that the DfE and Ofqual have put in place a 'contingency plan' if exams were to be cancelled in the Summer (this seems extremely unlikely). This plan requires the school to complete some assessment tasks during the school year on which we could decide a Teacher Assessed Grade, in the event that the contingency plan was put in place:

- **For Year 11** the December mock exams formed part of that assessment evidence base. Year 11 will have two further assessment windows when they will undertake assessments in their subjects. The first of these will be during the fortnight beginning 28/02/22 and the second in the fortnight beginning the 19/04/22. These assessments will take place in normal lesson times and last for 45 minutes. Subject teachers will give students advanced information about what they need to revise and prepare for. Any students who have exam access arrangements will have these accommodated. Year 11 students will get an overview timetable of when these will take place next week. All subjects will be doing assessments that they would ordinarily be doing as preparation for the summer exams. We will not be doing assessments unnecessarily just for the contingency plans. Year 11 students should see these as useful opportunities to hone their exam skills ready for the summer. It is important that students and parents / carers understand that these assessments will only be used to assign Teacher Assessed Grades if there is a nationwide decision to cancel exams and move to the contingency plan. Schools will **not** be able to use these assessments to provide a Teacher Assessed Grade for an individual who is unable to sit some / all exams in the summer for some reason. Students should fully expect to be sitting exams in the summer and prepare accordingly.

- **For Year 13** the forthcoming mock exams will form part of that assessment evidence base. Year 13 will have two further occasions when they will undertake assessments in their subjects which will take place during March and April. These assessments will take place in normal lesson times. Subject teachers will give students advanced information about what they need to revise and prepare for and the date when the assessment will take place in the subject. Year 13 will get an overview timetable of when these will take place next week. All subjects will be doing assessments that they would ordinarily be doing as preparation for the summer exams. Any students who have exam access arrangements will have these accommodated. We will not be doing assessments unnecessarily just for the contingency plans. Year 13 students should see these as useful opportunities to hone their exam skills ready for the summer. It is important that students and parents / carers understand that these assessments will only be used to assign Teacher Assessed Grades if there is a nationwide decision to cancel exams and move to the contingency plan. Schools will **not** be able to use these assessments to provide a Teacher Assessed Grade for an individual who is unable to sit some / all exams in the summer for some reason. Students should fully expect to be sitting exams in the summer and prepare accordingly.

### **Support for Students**

We have been incredibly impressed by how students in Year 11 and Year 13 are responding to the challenges they face this year. If you feel that your child in Year 11 or 13 is struggling then please don't hesitate to contact us. As ever, the best route is to contact school reception who will put you in touch with the relevant pastoral team.

Please do also remember that there is a [wealth of bespoke information on our website designed to support students taking exams this summer](#). This includes videos from staff on:

- Emotional Health and Well-Being
- Modern Techniques
- Revision

Whilst these resources were focused on Year 11, they will also be useful for students in Year 13.

### **Finally**

It is not too late for any student to improve their final grade. Year after year we see students who, following mock examinations respond brilliantly and significantly improve before the summer exams. Our message to students following their mock examinations is not to look back and to focus on what they can do to improve. They can't do anything about the past but they can do something about the future – it is not too late. If we can help then please do contact us.

Yours faithfully



Andrew George  
Head Teacher