



10 December 2020

Dear Parent\Carer

At the end of what has been a busy and productive term for Year 11 and Year 13, I wanted to update you on some short-term and longer-term developments regarding exams. It is expected that the summer exams in 2021 will take place, so it is important we continue to prepare our students to be ready to sit these exams.

Year 11 and Year 13 Mock Exams

We will run a series of mock exams for Year 11 and Year 13 students starting in the second week back following the Christmas holidays, in the week beginning 11 January 2021. The mock exam session will run for two weeks and will be completed in under formal exam conditions, whilst of course, adhering to COVID-19 safety guidelines.

Students have been provided with personalised examinations timetables and the JCQ exam regulations.

Study leave will not be provided during this mock exam session and students will be expected to be in their normal timetabled lessons if they are not in a mock exam.

It has been a long and busy term, with a lot of focus on both teaching new content and consolidating existing content and it is important students have a period of relaxation in the holiday. However, this will be the only mock exam session this academic year and it is equally important that students are organised for the mock exams and approach these seriously.

BTEC Exams in January and February 2021

Students studying BTEC courses may have external unit exams taking place in January and February 2021. We advise students to prepare thoroughly for these examinations, the grades attained will form part of their overall qualification grade. Students have already received timetables for these examinations. If students require any advice about available revision resources, they should speak to their class teacher.

Summer Exams in 2021

We learnt in August (full details [here](#)) that some examinations will be adapted for summer 2021, in light of the disruption to teaching experienced during the first lockdown. These changes are rather more modest than schools had expected. Subject leaders have been working closely with their exam boards to ensure they understand how the exams have been modified for their subject. Subject leaders have worked to ensure the curriculum is adjusted appropriately, ensuring that students are appropriately prepared for the summer exams.

Changes have also been announced to the GCE and GCSE Summer 2021 timetable, which is extended and will run from **7 June to 2 July 2021**, with the following exceptions:

- **26 May 2021** for A Level Dance and an English Language GCSE paper
- **27 May 2021** for a GCSE Mathematics paper

The timetable for BTEC external unit examinations has also been reviewed, meaning that for some subjects preliminary materials will be released early or the dates of some exams are delayed.

JCQ are also making arrangements for an extended examinations contingency period (28 June to 16 July 2021) in which additional exams will be timetabled, giving students the opportunity to sit a paper if the main exams are missed due to illness or self-isolation.

The summer results days have been confirmed as:

- **Tuesday 24 August 2021** for GCE and BTEC Nationals
- **Friday 27 August 2021** for GCSE and BTEC Tech Awards

Last week further support was announced for the summer 2021 exams which include:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A Levels to focus revision
- exam aids - like formula sheets - provided in some exams, giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise

As with the previous exam changes, subject leaders will be following these developments closely to ensure they are aware of the exact changes and requirements for their subjects. We will ensure that students are appropriately prepared. Awarding bodies have advised us that further information will be published in January 2021.

The Department for Education has produced an Exams 2021: parents Q&A document available [here](#).

I have been impressed with the seriousness and dedication demonstrated by Year 11 and Year 13 since their return to on-site studies. I wish you a restful holiday. As a school we will continue to monitor all developments for our Year 11 and 13 students to ensure they can be as successful as possible in these challenging times.

Yours faithfully



Mr B Barker
Assistant Headteacher