

1 October 2021

Dear Parents and Students

On Thursday 30 September, the government released its proposals for examinations for Year 11 and 13 students in 2022. I hope to provide a summary of these proposals, so as students and parents, you know what to expect.

IB in Year 13

International Baccalaureate qualifications are unaffected by the government announcement. The IB had already identified modified assessment criteria which will exist in 2022 and 2023. Teachers are already delivering the amended curriculum and we expect examinations and coursework to be assessed in the normal fashion in May of 2022.

GCSE and vocational qualifications at KS4 and 5

The government has announced that it wishes to assess students in the normal way, which is terminal examinations in most subjects in May and June of 2022. In recognition of the lost teaching time, some parts of subject curriculums (except GCSE English literature, history, and geography) will not be assessed. It has been decided that this information should be released by **7 February 2022** at the latest. Teachers will have no idea what topics will not be assessed in examinations, so it is likely that teachers will deliver areas of the curriculum that will not appear in the final exam. This may necessitate a sudden change in teaching material when the announcements are made, but at present, all departments are working towards teaching all the content and when the announcement is made, all revision will be centred around the assessed content. I am sure in the popular press there will be reports that students will be told what is in their exams. This will not be the case; the narrowing of the curriculum is likely to be slight and the students will still need to revise a significant range of topics.

GCSE English literature, history, and geography

There will be optional topics and content in GCSE English literature, history, and geography. Ofqual will require exam boards to change how they assess these subjects to reflect the expected changes to the way the subject content is assessed. Therefore, the exam papers will have a choice of questions and students will only be expected to answer the questions they have studied.

Contingency Measures

If exams cannot go ahead as planned, the government is currently consulting on contingency measures. The proposal is basically the same as was used for 2021, Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). However, the consultation indicates that the TAGs should be driven primarily from mock examinations sat at various points in the academic year. It is therefore vital that students revise thoroughly for all mock examinations as they may be used to determine final grades. We shall of course give notice of all exams, apply exam dispensation where appropriate and prepare students.

Allocation of Grades

In 2020 and 2021 there was an increase in the average grade awarded nationally. Ofqual has stated its aim is to return the grade profile to pre-pandemic standard in 2023, with 2022 being a transition 'midway' point between 2021 and 2019. Chief Regulator, Dr Jo Saxton, states, "This approach will recognise the disruption experienced by students taking exams in 2022, over their course of study, and so provide a safety net for those who might otherwise just miss out on a higher grade. Results overall will be higher than in 2019, but not as high as in 2020."

Results Days

It has been decided that results days will return to their normal position.

This academic year that will be:

- IB results - early July 2022
- Level 3 vocational - 18 August 2022
- GCSEs - 25 August 2022

I apologise if the information above is still vague and full of uncertainties but please be assured that as soon as we have more information, I will pass this on. I just want to assure all students and parents that while I appreciate that examinations are a stressful time and the disruption has created more uncertainty, all students are in a good place. Departments are on track to complete the curriculum and will have plenty of time to support students in their revision.

Best wishes



David Collins