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Monday 7 February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are well.

I write to update you with specific detail regarding the arrangements for GCSE, AS and A level examinations this summer, as [confirmed and provided yesterday](#) by HM Government 'to help mitigate the impact of the pandemic' on current Y11 and Y13 students caused 'by school closures during periods of lockdown and disruption due to absences.'

HM Government has again made clear that it 'is fully committed to exams going ahead this summer,' including for Vocationally Related Qualifications, but with some changes to address the impact COVID-19 has had on students (non-exam assessments continue to take place in the usual way). Exams have been spread out more this year, with the Exam season running from 16 May 2022 to 28 June 2022 (with 29 June being a contingency day), 'to maximise the opportunity for students to sit exams.' In the 'very unlikely case of a public health emergency which would prevent students being able to physically sit exams,' students will receive grades determined by their teachers, using teacher-assessed grades (TAGs) similar to those used in summer 2021, based on teachers' assessment of their students' work.

Along with all other schools, we have been following Ofqual's guidance on contingency arrangements for GCSEs, AS and A levels in summer 2022 in recognition of the fact that students' education has been disrupted by the pandemic. Moreover, additional information was published yesterday to help students prepare and 'focus [their] revision without providing exact questions that will appear' in exams. To this end, the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) [yesterday confirmed](#) their overview of the support being provided for each qualification, with the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) also [publishing](#) their Advance Information for respective subjects. Information and adaptations are different for each subject and exam board, but include 'advanced sight of the content... a choice of topics in some GCSEs like English literature and history, and support materials like formulae sheets in maths.'


It should also be noted that when grading exams this summer, Ofqual are providing an additional 'safety-net for students with a generous approach to grading'. Ofqual have stated that they 'will aim for a grading standard that reflects a midway point between 2021 and 2019,' which means that 'grade boundaries will be set so that more students will receive higher grades than was the case before the pandemic [to] provide a safety net for students who might otherwise just miss out on a higher grade in this transitional year.'

A 'postcard' summarising the additional help for students taking exams in summer 2022 has been provided by Ofqual and can be viewed [here](#). Ofqual has also provided an overview of the support being provided for each qualification and can be viewed [here](#).

For your convenience and that of our students, we have updated the [Qualifications and Awards](#) page on our website to provide links to all the specific COVID adaptations, changes and advanced information provided by respective exam boards for specific subjects and qualifications. Following the links provided will take you to the specific exam board pages, where you will be able to access the changes now confirmed to be in place. Teachers will also of course be sharing and working through this information with students in more detail in school, and given the considerable amount of information provided, we will also shortly provide a synopsis of the changes for our students.

Should you require any further information or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us. Staff contact details can also be accessed on our website by [following this link](#).

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a short horizontal line.

Craig Griffiths
(Principal).