



Our Ref: JDI/SWD

23 November 2021

Dear parent/carer

I write to you in light of guidance recently published by Ofqual around contingency planning for the possibility that exams are cancelled in Summer 2022. We, and the government, very much hope this is not the case. However, the recently issued guidance was clear that schools need a contingency plan in case summer exams are cancelled. If exams are cancelled, schools will again issue 'Teacher Assessed Grades', which is the process by which exam grades were awarded this year.

I want to you to inform you of the specific changes we have made to our plans to assess Year 11 over the remainder of this year. Your child has received this information in assembly today. We have had to change our approach to mock exams that were planned to begin on Monday 29 November. These changes are detailed below:

- Autumn Assessments will now begin on Monday 6 December
- Students will now sit less exam papers. In general, they will sit one exam paper per subject, with the exception of modern foreign languages and separate sciences where students will sit two exam papers
- Students will be given revision lists which identify the broad areas that each exam paper covers
- Exam papers will be adjusted to ensure they cover only the content taught so far to students

These changes have been made to help our students. By pushing the start date back, we give students more time to revise. By reducing the amount of exam papers students can spend more time revising for each one. By giving revision lists we aim to focus their revision on concepts that will be covered in the exam papers. By adjusting the exam papers to cover only content taught we are allowing students to show us what they know and what they can do.

We are making these changes so our students can achieve well in this series of Autumn Assessments. We are doing this because a key part of the guidance issued by Ofqual is that these assessments **will** be used as part of the process to calculate Teacher Assessed Grades **if** summer exams are cancelled. Every student understands the importance of this and I hope that you now do also. It is important to clarify that the grade/mark they get in these assessments is **not** their Teacher Assessed Grade, but it will be used to calculate that grade **should** summer exams be cancelled at any point.

Additionally, we will be running a series of further assessments in the Spring term which provide another opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge. If required, we will do so again early in the Summer term.

We very much hope that this process is a contingency we do not need but you will understand that we have had to put in place this plan as a precaution. Due to the timing of the announcement we have had to move quickly to make changes and this is the first chance we have had to communicate our plans to you and your children.

Yours faithfully

Joe Dicocco
Deputy Principal

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