Dear Parents and Carers of Year 11 students,

The Government has announced arrangements for next summer’s examinations so we would like to let you know about them. The key changes that have been announced are summarised as follows:

**Adaptations**

* There will be optional topics and content in GCSE History and Geography.
* If necessary, centres will be allowed to deliver practical work in GCSE Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Combined Science by demonstration.
* Students taking GCSE Art and Design will be assessed on their portfolio only.
* Exam boards will provide advanced information about the focus of the content of examinations for all GCSE subjects except GCSE English Literature, History and Geography by 7 February 2022 at the latest. This could be released earlier ‘if circumstances require’.
* Students will be given a formulae sheet for GCSE Mathematics and a revised equation sheet for GCSE Physics and Combined Science.

**Grading**

* 2022 will be a ‘transition year’ to reflect the fact that we are in a pandemic recovery period and students’ education has been disrupted.
* Ofqual will, therefore, aim for grades in 2022 to reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019. This means that results overall next year will be higher than in 2019 but not as high as in 2021.
* Organisations awarding Vocational Technical Qualifications (VTQs) are expected to take account of the approach for GCSEs when setting standards in their own qualifications.
* In 2023, Ofqual aims to return to results that are in line with those in prepandemic years.

**Results Days**

Results for examinations next year will return to their normal format, with GCSEs on 25 August 2022. Results for VTQs will be issued on or before the same days, and other VTQ results (for example, module results) will continue to be issued throughout the year.

**Contingency Plans**

* Whilst schools have been asked to plan on the basis that examinations will go ahead as outlined above, the Government has launched a two-week consultation on what contingency arrangements should be put in place if GCSE examinations cannot go ahead as planned in 2022.
* The Government’s proposal is essentially a revised version of the 2021 Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) process, with tighter guidance on the evidence on which TAGs would be based. Specific suggestions include:
* planned assessment points from which to gather evidence of
* the use, at these assessment points, of approaches which replicate exam board papers and exam conditions
* It is likely that the Government will produce guidance on this process once the consultation is complete and the final approach is agreed.
* Guidance on contingency arrangements for VTQs has already been published. This advises:
* using TAGs for those VTQs which are most similar to GCSEs, AS and A Levels
* delaying VTQs awards that require students to demonstrate occupational/professional competence, to ensure that students are able to demonstrate the full set of knowledge and skills required

The full announcement can be found by clicking on the link below: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/adaptations-in-2022-summer-examinationsto-ensure-fairness-forstudents>

We will hold Year 11 mock GCSE examinations at the end of November and start of December.

The Government is clearly intending for examinations to go ahead as normal until around 30th June 2022 so we are working every day to prepare all pupils for these examinations. Please remember, any pupil who is too ill to sit an external GCSE examination must get a Doctor’s note to explain their absence as examination boards do not accept a parent or carer’s note.

Yours faithfully,

Mr D Burton

Deputy Headteacher