



1 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

You will have seen in the news that information about Exams for Summer 2022 has been released. We thought we would write to you to briefly outline the main points (the full document can be accessed via this link - [Consultation Document](#)).

There is a clear desire to get back to pre-pandemic standards; but the intention is that this will take two years and, therefore, next year will be a transition (or midpoint) towards these standards. This means that outcomes will reflect a midpoint between 2021 and 2019 levels.

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 2021.

Background

For the past 2 years, summer exams haven't been able to take place and, instead, students have been awarded grades by their teachers.

In summer 2020, the government decided that exams could not take place safely. As the pandemic continued it disrupted education to such an extent, and so unevenly, that the government decided it would have been unfair to ask students to sit exams as they normally would in summer 2021, given the differences in the amount of the curriculum that different schools and colleges had been able to teach.

Using grades assessed by teachers and checked by centres was the right thing to do in the exceptional circumstances of the pandemic. It meant students could receive grades and move on with their lives, and their grades took account of the disruption caused by the pandemic.

Adaptations for 2022

Arrangements have been put in place for summer 2022 to support students and make exams fairer for them. The government has introduced a choice of topics or content in some GCSE exams and exam boards will give advance information about the focus of the content, designed to provide guidance for revision for students ahead of summer exams. Study aids will be allowed in some exams.

More detail about the adaptations:

1. There will be optional topics and content in GCSE English Literature, History and Geography.
2. The practical requirements for A level Biology, Chemistry and Physics will continue to be reduced, so that students are assessed across a minimum number of practical activities.
3. Students taking GCSE, AS and A level Art and Design subjects will be assessed on their portfolio only.
4. Exam boards will provide advanced information about the focus of the content of the exams for all GCSE, AS and A level subjects (except English Literature, History and Geography). This information will arrive in schools on 7 February 2022. This will mean that teachers will aim to finish course content by then and be able to provide much more focussed revision support.
5. Students will be given a formula sheet for GCSE Maths. A clean version of this sheet can be used in the examinations.
6. Students will be given a revised equation sheet for GCSE Science and GCSE Physics which will cover all the equations. A clean version of this sheet can be used in the examinations.

Grades will be based on how students have performed in exams, but there is a contingency plan in place for awarding Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs), in the unlikely event that exams are not able to go ahead as planned (the full contingency plan can be accessed via this link - [Contingency Plan](#)).

We continue to be committed to providing the best possible support for our students and parents/carers. We will keep you informed throughout the year of any changes externally and of all the things we have on offer within school.

Kind regards



Carol Hubbard
Deputy Headteacher