



SACRED HEART
CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL

18th February 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

For the past 2 years, summer examinations have not been able to take place because of the global pandemic and, instead, pupils have been awarded grades by their teachers. However, as you will have heard, the government has confirmed examinations in the summer of 2022 will go ahead.

To recognise the disruption pupils have faced over the last two years, the Department for Education has put in place measures to support pupils and make exams fairer for them and we can now share this information with you.

What is being done to ensure fairness in the exams this year?

Pupils will benefit from adaptations to exams and the approach to grading this year to minimise the impact of the pandemic on their education. There will be choices of topics or content in GCSE English Literature, History and Geography, and a formulae or expanded equations sheet available in exams for GCSE Maths, Physics and Combined Science. There are also changes to the requirements for practical assessments in Sciences and Art and Design, recognising how the pandemic will have affected pupils' opportunities in these subjects.

How will my child know of these exact changes and choices in each subject?

Teachers will be informing pupils of the exact changes in their subjects. We have also adapted teaching plans and revision resources to reflect the information we received from the exam boards on 7th February. As Headteacher, I am confident with our work on this and our response has been rapid to inform our teaching.

For all subjects, pupils and parents can also view information published by each exam board on their websites. In the table below we have collated this information and embedded the relevant links.

Sacred Heart exists so all members of the community may "live life to the full" (John 10:10)

Executive Headteacher: Mr M Burns

Sacred Heart Catholic Secondary School, Mersey Road, Redcar, TS10 1PJ

Tel: 01642 487100 | Email: enquiries@sacredheart.npcat.org.uk | Website: sacredheart.npcat.org.uk

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Will pupils be getting the questions for their exams before they sit it?

No. The additional information aims to focus pupils' revision without providing exact questions that will appear. For example, exam boards are avoiding providing so much detail that answers could be pre-prepared and memorised.

What about the grading of exams this year, is it the same as before?

Ofqual's plans for grading this summer mean that grading profiles will not return to pre-pandemic levels immediately, recognising the challenges our pupils have faced. Ultimately, Ofqual are saying exams will be graded more generously this year.

Pupils have been working incredibly hard to cope with the challenges that Covid has brought over the last two years; their resilience to Covid disruption has shone through. As a school, please be assured we are doing everything we can to ensure your child is fully prepared for the exams they will sit in the summer.

Please find attached our after-school intervention timetable for after half term.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs Doyle (Head of Year 11) or Mrs Welbourne (Deputy Headteacher) if you have any queries regarding exam information.

Yours faithfully

Mr Burns
Executive Headteacher

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