



Appledore Gardens
Lindfield
Haywards Heath
West Sussex
RH16 2AQ

tel: 01444 414001
email office@oathall.org
website www.oathall.org

Headteacher: Mr E Rodriguez MA BSc (Hons)

12th November 2021

Dear Year 11 Parents

Our year 11 students have been working hard with their teachers in preparation for their mock examinations which start on Monday. I am writing to give some reminders about these examinations and also to provide some further information in light of the guidance published by the government yesterday.

The timetable for the mock examinations is available on the school website [here](#). The "information for candidates" document is attached to this email. Although these are intended for the formal examinations in the summer we do expect the students to adhere to these for their mocks. Please take some time this weekend to go through these with your daughter or son.

You may have seen in the news that guidance about GCSE grading was published yesterday. The full guidance is available [here](#) along with a letter to students, available [here](#). The guidance is clear that the intention is for formal GCSE exams to go ahead this year and that grading will be based on the outcomes of these exams. However it does include contingency plans that will be used in the unlikely event that exams have to be cancelled again because of the pandemic.

If the exams were to be cancelled, a Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) approach similar to that used in summer 2021 would be undertaken. TAGs are based on teachers' assessments of their students' work. The published guidance suggests a sensible approach would be to timetable assessments in the second half of the autumn term, the spring term and then the first half of the summer term. Our upcoming mock exams will provide assessments for the first of these suggested sessions. We will then plan how we will timetable additional assessment opportunities later in the year, being mindful to avoid over assessing students and creating unnecessary workload for them.

Although it is very unlikely that TAGs will need to be used, we understand that this news released so close to the mocks may have caused an increase in worry for some students. Any student who misses a mock exam will have an opportunity to take the paper(s) as soon after the timetabled mock period as is reasonably possible, once they are back in school. Exam conditions would be applied in this case so that the assessment could count towards a TAG if needed. Also, providing subsequent assessment sessions for all students later in the school year will allow candidates to demonstrate progress made next term.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning this matter.

Yours faithfully

Mr T Houghton

