

7 December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to share with you some of the key information relating to GCSEs and BTECs summer 2022. The government have made clear it is their aim to get back to normal and they fully anticipate that students will be sitting exams in the summer. We are preparing our students for this, as you would expect, and this preparation includes our mock examinations from 24th January to 4th February 2022.

In response to the disruption that year 11s have faced over the last two years, some changes have been put in place relating to the course content, exams and assessment. Some of these changes have already been published and there will be further information released early in the new year. Teachers and departments are aware of any changes for their subject and will manage this for our students.

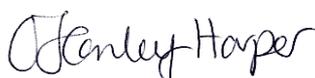
In terms of examination grading, the government have committed to aim for grading that reflects a midway point between the grades awarded in 2020 and 2021. This means that grade boundaries will be set to provide a safety net or transition year, so that more students will achieve higher grades than was the case pre-pandemic. This is intended to take account of the disruption that students have faced, while also ensuring fairness in the process and a safety net for students who might have just missed a higher grade.

However, the government have also released their contingency plans in case examinations cannot eventually go ahead. They have said if the 2022 exams cannot go ahead due to further Covid disruption, grades will instead be determined by the school, using a 'school assessed grade' approach.

In anticipation of such a contingency, teachers have already been gathering evidence this term and there will be further assessment points, including the year 11 mock exams from 24th January to 4th February. Please be aware that it will not be possible to generate a school assessed grade at this stage or following the mock. We will continue to forecast grades for the end of year 11, but this does not guarantee any specific grade at the end of the course. If the contingency plan does come into effect, the government will then specify exactly how school assessed grades should be determined.

Jo Saxton, the Chief Regulator of Ofqual, has written a letter to students. If you would like to read this, you can find it here: [Letter to students - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/letter-to-students)

Yours sincerely



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