

Dear Parent/Carer,

Confirmed summer 2022 exam changes and mock exams

Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) and examination boards have confirmed that Summer 2022 exams will go ahead.

This letter confirms the agreed changes that will take place to mitigate some of the pressure on teaching time and the pressure that students experience when revising for and sitting exams. Outlined overleaf is a table that summarises key adaptations for GCSE subjects.

Ofqual also announced information about grading for summer GCSE 2022 exams. For the past two years, summer exams haven't been able to take place and, instead, students have been awarded grades by their teachers. Due to the difference in assessment approach, nationally, outcomes have been higher. As we return to exams, Ofqual have stated 2022 results are likely to be aligned between 2019 and 2020 results; higher than in 2019, but not as high as in 2020.

We are pleased that many students are near to completing BTEC courses. Teachers will soon be submitting Teacher Assessed Grades to BTEC exam board for units that students were not able to complete &/or exam units that could not be sat, due to COVID disruption back in Year 10. When teachers have confirmed the completion of students BTEC courses, students will benefit significantly from using gained time during their BTEC lessons to revise and prepare for GCSE subjects.

Now Ofqual have released final decisions for Summer 2022 exams, we are planning the upcoming November mock exam papers to reflect these decisions. **Mock exams will commence on Monday 22nd November**, running for approximately two weeks. If the pandemic worsens, student mock exam grades MAY be requested by exam boards, at a later stage. For this reason, it is vitally important that students revise thoroughly and prepare fully for their upcoming mock exams. We will issue a mock exam timetable in the next few weeks.

Finally, compulsory intervention is now in full swing and I would like to take this opportunity to thank every student who has demonstrated a mature and positive approach. Intervention lessons are vital in addressing gaps in knowledge and to catch up after significant periods of disruption. Teachers will do all they can to support students to achieve to their true potential; we very much appreciate your continual support.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S Brackenridge
Deputy Headteacher

Summary of key changes and adaptations for 2022 exams

Subject	Exam board	Exam 2022 adjustments	Exam 2022 papers			
GCSE English Literature	AQA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Anthology of Poetry withdrawn.Total marks reduced from 160 to 130.Total exam time reduced from 4 hours to 3 hours and 25 minutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Paper 1 – Christmas Carol and Inspector callsPaper 2 – Romeo & Juliet and unseen poetry Individual length of papers TBC			
GCSE English Language		<ul style="list-style-type: none">The exams will remain the sameTopic information to be released by 7th February 2022 to focus revision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Paper 1 – Creative reading and writing; 1hr 45mPaper 2 – Writer’s viewpoints and perspectives; 1hr 45m			
GCSE Maths	Pearson / Edexcel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Topic information to be released by 7th February 2022 to focus revision.Students will be given a formulae sheet	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Paper 1 – Non-calculator; 1hr 30mPaper 2 – Calculator; 1hr 30mPaper 3 – Calculator; 1hr 30mNo reduction in length of exams			
GCSE Geography	AQA	TBC – Exam boards are working on finalising changes. We will update you as soon as we receive further information. It is expected that questions related to students experience of fieldwork will be removed. However, students will still require knowledge and understanding about fieldwork.				
GCSE History	Pearson / Edexcel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Removed Cold WarThree papers instead of fourTotal exam time reduced from 4 hours and 25 minutes to 3 hours and 30 minutes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Paper 1 – Medicine in Britain; 1 hr 15mPaper 2 – Early Elizabethan England; 55mPaper 3 – Weimar and Nazi Germany; 1 hr 20m			
GCSE Triple Science and Combined Science	AQA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Topic information to be released by 7th February 2022 to focus revision.Students will be given a revised equations sheet in GCSE Physics and GCSE Combined Science covering all the equations required in the subject content.	Paper	Triple	Combined	
			1 – Biology 2- Biology 1- Chemistry 2 – Chemistry 1- Physics 2 - Physics	Each of these papers are 1hr 45m	Each of these papers are 1hr 15m	
			No reduction in length of exams			
GCSE French	AQA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Topic information to be released by 7th February 2022 to focus revision.Vocabulary used will be on the vocabulary lists.An extra optional question in the writing assessment to help students to focus on fewer themes in their writing.Speaking tests will take place	Paper	Foundation Tier	Higher Tier	
			Paper 1 – Listening Paper 2 - Speaking; Paper 3 – Reading Paper 4 - Writing	35m 7-9m 45m 1hr	45m 10-12m 1hr 1hr 15m	
GCSE Art	OCR	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Students will only be assessed on their portfolio.	No exam set task			
GCSE D&T	AQA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NEA (coursework) adjusted to mitigate some pressure on design time.Topic information to be released by 7th February 2022 to focus revision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Paper 1 – Design and technology; 2 hrs No reduction in length of exams.			
GCSE Food	AQA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">NEA 1 task removedNEA 2 task remains but reduced to two dishes within three hours.Topic information to be released by 7th February 2022 to focus revision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Paper 1 – Food preparation and nutrition; 1hr 45m No reduction in length of exams.			
GCSE Drama	Eduqas	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Adjustments permitted for performers and designersTopic information to be released by 7th February 2022 to focus revision.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Paper 1 – Interpreting theatre; 1hr 30m No reduction in length of exams			