



Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week, the Department for Education and Ofqual published their initial plans for GCSEs and A level qualifications in Summer 2022. The information published includes changes that will be put in place to support students, information regarding grading standards, contingency plans, and dates for the results days. Please see below a summary of the key information:

Changes to A-level and GCSE exams

- There will be a choice of topics in GCSE English Literature, GCSE History and GCSE Geography.
- There will be advanced information given to students on the content of all other exams at both GCSE and A-level to be used as revision guidance, except GCSE English literature, History and Geography. This advanced information will be published by exam boards by the 7th of February.
- There will be support materials given in GCSE Mathematics (formula sheets), and GCSE Physics and Combined Science (equation sheets).
- Students taking GCSE, AS and A level Art and Design will be assessed on their portfolio only.

Grading Standards in Summer 2022

In Summer 2022 exam boards will set grade boundaries that are based on the midpoint between the average of 2019 and 2021 results. As in any other normal year, exam boards will use statistics as a starting point to align their standards in each subject. This means that in the 2022 exam season exam boards will set grade boundaries so that more students get higher grades in 2022 than when exams were taken before the pandemic began (2019).

Contingency Plans

We believe that exams are going ahead this year. However, there remains a small risk that exams will not go ahead as planned, either because of a risk of further disruption to learning or because public health advice says it's not safe to do so. If either of those scenarios are true, the DfE advice is that Teacher Assessed Grades will once again be used.

There is currently a DfE consultation on this, which closes on 13th October. We will report back on the outcomes of the consultation in due course.

Results Day

Results will be issued on the 18th of August for A-level and the 25th for GCSE.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Jones Deputy Headteacher