



Dear Parent/Carer,

Following our previous communication regarding the government's plans for GCSE exams this year we wanted to provide an update in relation to the final summer exams and also the extra round of mock exams that will be taking place next half term.

As you are aware, the government has indicated that it is highly likely that the exams will go ahead in the summer. As part of taking account of the challenging circumstances over the last few years, the government has asked exam boards to provide greater direction in relation to content and structure of the exams than in 'normal' years. This may be reduced content or greater direction on content. The deadline for the release of that information by exam boards is today (7th Feb). Once it is released we will be working hard to understand the details and gain clarification on anything that is unclear. We will provide further details relating to this as soon as possible.

As mentioned in previous communication, although the summer exams are highly likely to be taking place, we have been asked to prepare for a 'Plan B' scenario just in case exams do need to be cancelled. In such a situation, students will need the necessary evidence for teachers to be able to award them a GCSE grade. The national guidance is that each school must ensure that students have three separate assessment points across the year that, taken together, would be used to formulate their final grade. So far, we have the December mocks which would be used as their first assessment point. We have now finalised plans for the second set of assessments, which will take place in the majority of subjects across a four-week period, starting straight after February half-term. Students will receive their own exam timetable, but a summary can be found below.

These assessments are shorter, around 45 minutes, and in the majority of cases will be taken in their usual lesson for that subject. Access arrangements such as extra time, group readers and laptops will be administered by the teacher in that lesson. For more specific needs such as scribes and one-one readers, students will sit their exam in a separate room. Where exams are timetabled to take place in the Sports Hall the usual access arrangements, along the lines of those implemented for the December mocks, will be used.

Students will be given guidance on what to revise for assessments in due course, but as mentioned previously, we are only finding out the potential changes to content for the exams today. We wanted to ensure that students would only be tested in the next round of mocks on content relevant to their final exams. Therefore, the revision lists for the mock assessments immediately after half term will start to come out towards the end of this week, with ones in later weeks following. This information will be distributed via 'Show My Homework'.

National Reference Tests

In addition to the information above we also have 60 students who have been randomly selected by OfQual to complete a National Reference Test in either English or Maths. These tests provide important data to OfQual for looking at changes in performance over time. Students selected do not need to do any preparation for these

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assessments and the results are anonymised. As such they will have no bearing on the individual student's GCSE results. Students selected will receive a separate letter this week.

Thanks again for your patience and support. If you have any queries please get in touch with either Mrs Wagstaff, Miss Taylor or myself. For queries relating to access arrangements please get in touch with Miss Yates.

Kind regards,



Mr R Johnson

	w/c 28th Feb	PE Practical				w/c 7th March	National Ref Tests	Drop Down Day		
Period	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
1			Computing			Maths Y		Geog		
2						Maths X				
3	English X	Drama		Science Y					English X	
4	English Y			Science X	Media			Science All	English Y	
5										Business
	w/c 14th March					w/c 21st March				
Period	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
1	Music Tec, Psych		German			Maths Y				
2	Psych					Maths X		French		
3		DT		Science Y				French		
4				Science X	Spanish		History			RS
5			German		Spanish				Dance, Music	