

8 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Year 11 GCSE Exams**

I am writing further to the information released by the Department for Education last week regarding the 2021 GCSE examinations for your child.

It is only fair that adjustments should be made to these exams, given the disruption to schools and students caused by the coronavirus pandemic and the associated lockdowns. The full details can be read here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-support-the-summer-2021-exams/guidance-to-support-the-summer-2021-exams>

The key messages are:

- Exams will be delayed by three weeks with the main exam series taking place from 7th June to 2nd July 2021 to create more teaching time
- Grading will carry forward the overall generosity of 2020, to ensure the 2021 cohort are treated fairly, relative to their 2020 peers
- Ofqual will aim to ensure students are treated equitably, regardless of their choice of subjects
- Clinically extremely vulnerable students will be personally supported by schools – please contact us if this applies to your child
- Students will be supported through providing advance notice of some of the topic areas that will be covered in exams
- In some subjects, supporting materials, such as formula sheets, will be provided on the day of the exams
- For vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs), Ofqual has been working with awarding organisations throughout the year to agree a number of adaptations to these qualifications to take account of disruption
- Systems will be in place for students who miss an exam due to coronavirus via the special consideration process
- A contingency exam timetable will be in place for students who miss all their exams in one subject due to coronavirus
- A further process will be in place to award grades, even if students miss their exams and the contingency process
- An expert advisory group is being set up in order to consider how best to manage the impact of disrupted learning due to coronavirus



I am pleased that the Department for Education has considered a range of measures to support students at this time. Although there is clearly more detail to follow at an individual subject level, the aim is to help students focus their understanding in certain areas and target their revision in the run up to exams.

As soon as we have more information, I will write to you again, but I hope that the above information is welcome news at this time for your child.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Clark'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T' and a long, sweeping underline.

Mr T Clark  
Vice Principal