



TDMS

Tuesday 19 October 2021

GCSE and A Level Summer Examinations update

Dear Parents/Carers

The government is clear that exams are the fairest and most accurate way to measure attainment and to that end, all exams across England will go ahead in the summer of 2022. The government also recognises that students have experienced unprecedented disruption to their education over the last two years and this disruption has not fallen equally across the country. To ensure students have the confidence they will be treated fairly, there have been some measures and decisions made by the government that we can now confirm.

There will be optional topics and content in GCSE English literature, history, and geography. Teachers will inform students of the changes in due course. Practical work can be delivered by demonstration in all the sciences at GCSE and therefore students can be asked questions in any of the set practical tasks the exam board requires us to cover. In addition to this, practical work must be undertaken in all the A Level subjects in order to assess the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) to demonstrate students' competence in set practical tasks. For students taking GCSE Art and Design, they will be assessed on their portfolio only.

In February 2022, awarding organisations will provide details of the additional support to be provided for A level and GCSE exams. Students will be supported through providing advance notice of some of the topic areas that will be covered in exams. Additionally, in GCSE maths, GCSE physics and combined science, formula sheets will be provided on the day of the exams. This will allow students to focus on depth of understanding in these areas and target their revision in the run up to exams.

While it is the Government's firm intention for exams to go ahead next year, it is right for contingency plans to be in place in the event they cannot. Ofqual and the Department for Education plan for Teacher Assessed Grades to be used and are launching a consultation on how this might work in 2022, building on the 2021 process. This means that grades could be assigned based on students' performance on assessments completed over the duration of the course. To prepare for this, we will be informing the students of any assessments that could be used in the calculation of Teacher Assessed Grades and ensuring the students conduct the assessments in a controlled manner with access arrangements in place where required.

I'm sure that you will agree that with these measures in place, your child will have a fair chance to succeed in their GCSEs and A levels despite the disruption caused over the last two years.

Our students are in the best position, with the best support, to achieve. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at school or via email msandell@tdms.worcs.sch.uk .

Yours sincerely

Mr Sandell
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