

Our ref: KRO/346.LCO

11th October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

GCSEs 2022

This week we, we received details of how GCSEs will run this year. The changes are not unexpected, but of course concerns regarding the fairness of the proposals will continue to rage on.

The plan is that exams will take place in 2022, with the following adjustments:

- **GCSE English Literature, GCSE History and GCSE Geography** have reduced content – we have some control over which topics we teach. This has already been determined in History and English Literature, but we need to wait until later next week to know exactly what we are allowed to do in Geography.
- Students will receive formula sheets in **GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Physics**. This a huge help, given the huge number of formulae which students would ordinarily be expected to memorise.
- The last examined exams were in 2019 and since then the grades across the country have improved significantly. In these exams, grade boundaries will be determined to give grades that sit between the 2019 and 2021 results. This means that grades will be lower than 2021, but higher than 2019.
- In all subjects, other than GCSE English Literature, GCSE History and GCSE Geography, lists of the topics that will feature on the exams will be released on 7th February 2022 (or earlier if the pandemic worsens).
- A consultation has opened about the use of teacher assessed grades next summer. They will only be used if the pandemic worsens. We all need to be aware that there is a possibility that Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) may need to be used again. We will be collecting evidence from our students as we go through the year in case we need to use TAGs again. We will highlight which pieces of work may be used as evidence as we go along, so that students are aware of the importance of what they are doing.
- The summer 2022 exam timetable will space out papers in each subject so that a student can access at least one component even if they are isolating. This means that in a subject where there are 3 papers, those papers should be spread out over 3 weeks.
- We expect that **Art and Design** students will only be assessed on their portfolio work.
- GCSE results day will be Thursday 25th August 2022.

November PREs

Before I get onto matters of the PREs, I do want to take this opportunity of saying just how impressed we are with our Year 11 students. They have come back to us with a very positive attitude and are a real pleasure to have in the school. We have every confidence that they will do brilliantly in their exams this year. As you will know, we are not just about the exams, we care very much for the overall wellness of our students, and I just wanted to reassure you that we are keeping a really careful eye on the year group. We will do anything that we can to

support our students if things ever feel too much for them. If at any point you have concerns or would like to talk to us, then please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Our Year 11 PREs begin on the 5th November and are split into two parts. From the 5th to the 11th students will sit their Core Subject PREs and from the 23rd to the 29th Option Subject exams will take place. We have done this to spread the exams out so that students get the best opportunity to do their best.

We are supporting our students in the following ways for their PREs:

- Giving advance notice of the topic areas which will be on the papers.
- Guiding their revision towards relevant units of study.
- Use lessons to prepare students ahead of the exams.
- Only setting questions on subjects that they have covered - whole papers will not be set unless all the subject matter on the papers has been studied.
- Using Skodel as a means of students reporting any difficulties they are facing so that we can look after the mental health of our students (all students have a logon for this) - <https://skodel.com/>

Students will receive all their PRE results at the same time, just as they would after the real exams. The date for this is yet to be determined, but we also aim to have local 16+ providers present for students to be able to talk to and get information from on that day.

Core Subjects PRE Dates

Exam	Date
English Language - Paper 1	Friday, 05 November
English Language - Paper 2	Monday, 08 November
Biology	Tuesday, 09 November
Maths - Paper 1	Tuesday, 09 November
Chemistry	Wednesday, 10 November
Maths - Paper 2	Wednesday, 10 November
Physics	Thursday, 11 November
Maths - Paper 3	Thursday, 11 November

Option Subjects PRE Dates

Exam	Date
Option A - Paper 1	Tuesday, 23 November
Option B - Paper 1	Wednesday, 24 November
Option D - Paper 1	Thursday, 25 November
Option A - Paper 2	Thursday, 25 November
Option C - Paper 1	Friday, 26 November
Option B - Paper 2	Friday, 26 November
Option C - Paper 2	Monday, 29 November
Option D - Paper 2	Monday, 29 November

Kind regards

Mr K Rourke-Beasley

Mr K Rourke-Beasley
Deputy Headteacher