

9 December 2020

TO ALL Y11 PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer

Y11 GCSE Exams Summer 2021

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

It is only fair that adjustments should be made to these exams, given the disruption to schools and learners 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>

The key messages are:

- Exams will be delayed by three weeks, with the main exam series taking place from 7 June to 2 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 learners are treated equitably, regardless of their choice of subjects.
- Clinically extremely vulnerable learners will be personally supported by schools - please contact us if this applies to your son/daughter.
- Learners will be supported by 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, Ofqual has been working with awarding organisations throughout the year to agree a number of adaptations to these qualifications to take account of disruption.

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- Systems will be in place for learners who miss an exam due to coronavirus via the special consideration process.
- A contingency exam timetable will be in place for learners who miss all their exams in one subject due to coronavirus.
- A further process will be in place to award grades, even if learners 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 learners at this time. Although there is clearly more detail to follow at an individual subject level, the aim is to help learners focus their understanding in certain areas and target their revision in the run up to exams.

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

Yours sincerely



Mrs J McGuirk
Principal