



3 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

End of Year 11 trial exams

We wanted to let you know how proud we are of the maturity and dedication with which Year 11 students have tackled their trial exams over the last few weeks - the invigilators and exams team have all remarked on how well the students have conducted themselves. Thank you also to parents for your support in getting your child organised!

Can we also remind all students that they need to ensure their uniform is correct on Monday (correct shoes, no hoodies, and jewellery that complies with school regulations), to arrive punctually on site (by 0830) and to ensure they have checked their timetable and equipment - so that they are back in the routine needed to ensure a positive recommencement of their learning in the run-up to the Christmas break.

Looking ahead, there are a few important points to outline for the coming weeks:

When will we get results from the trial exams?

The trial exams are only the start of the process - over the next two weeks, staff will be marking and debriefing the trials to enable students to identify which question and topic areas they have answered well, as well as how to attain higher marks in the future. The notional grades that students have earned, alongside forecast grades, will be distributed in January. It's important to note that the trial exam results are NOT 'TAGs' (see below).

Will these count for Teacher-Assessed Grades (TAGs)?

Although Ofqual have announced their contingency 'Plan B' of teacher-assessed grades, should summer exams not go ahead, exams **are** still scheduled to occur in the summer. The trial exam grades that are notionally awarded only cover parts of the syllabus for each subject, and are not the same as TAGs. If exams are cancelled, the trial exams may be taken into account as a part of the evidence teachers use to calculate grades, but we would envisage greater weighting being given to evidence gathered in Spring and Summer assessments.

My child missed exams due to illness/isolation. Are they now at a disadvantage?

Because summer exams have not been cancelled, your child is not at a disadvantage. Although we did not have many students who missed exams, a few students did not sit the full suite of papers. If that affects your child, the exams team will be in contact. Whether or not they sat the paper, what is important is that they have reviewed the paper and use it to identify stronger or weaker areas of knowledge and application, and where further work is needed in the coming months - learning from class de-briefs of the papers will be vital.

These trial exams have provided a useful replication of the summer exam series experience; however, their primary purpose is to provide high quality diagnostic information, which will help inform your child's exam preparation over the coming months.

We look forward to welcoming your child back to their normal lessons on Monday.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Peters
Deputy Headteacher



Mrs R Kingson
Deputy Headteacher



Miss A Shilliday
Head of Year 11