



February 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

## **GCSE Assessments Spring Term 2022**

We are writing to update you on our plans for an additional short assessment period for Year 11 students in the spring term.

The Department of Education has been very clear that it is their intention to ensure that formal GCSE examinations will go ahead as normal this academic year. With the lifting of Plan B contingency plans, and with the published recent changes by exam boards, it would appear even more likely that this will be the case.

However, in the highly unlikely event that formal examinations do not go ahead, the Joint Council for Qualifications has asked all schools to put in place a number of short assessment periods that students will complete in the Autumn, Spring and Summer Terms. Having completed trial exams in the Autumn Term we are now putting in place a second short assessment week running from **Friday 4 March to Wednesday 9 March**. These assessments will provide students and teachers with valuable feedback on their progress since the trial exams in December, identifying any further areas for improvement and potential key focuses for revision in the remaining weeks as we approach the exams.

### **Spring Assessment week Friday 4 March - Wednesday 9 March:**

A draft overview of the assessment timetable can be found [here](#).

Individual student timetables will be issued to students by our exams officer, Mrs Dolt, after half term: any clashes will be resolved through these timetables.

Assessments will take place in the following subjects: English Language, English Literature, Maths, RS, Biology, Geography, History, Business, Citizenship, Film, PE, French and Spanish.

For those subjects (Art, Textiles, Product Design and Food) who are currently completing the NEA/ Coursework element of their GCSEs there will be no short assessment; instead we will use the work they have done so far on their NEA.

Drama, Music, Computer Science, Physics and Chemistry have opted to complete their assessments in lesson time. Students will be made aware of when these assessments will take place in class to give them the time to prepare.

Please be reassured that all students entitled to access arrangement will receive the support they are entitled to.

Wednesday 9 March is an Extended Learning Day for the whole school. On this day the whole school timetable is suspended to enable our students to participate in a programme of activities, appropriate to their Key Stage, and tailored to support their learning. Year 11 students will take two additional trial exams on the Extended Learning Day; an English Language paper and a calculator Mathematics paper.

In preparation for these assessments, please take the opportunity to discuss your child's report with them, together with the advice and guidance received at the Parent-Teacher Consultation Evening, and encourage your child to try out the revision techniques introduced at the Revision Skills session with Dr Martijn Van der Spoel. A second session with Dr Van Der Spoel is scheduled for late March.

**Additional announcements from exam boards**

As I am sure you are aware, the awarding bodies have now published advanced information in relation to the content of summer exams for most subjects. Teachers will ensure that they share this information with students and we will be in contact in due course to provide you with an overview of this.

Thank you for continuing to support your son/daughter through this busy and important time.

Kind regards



Miss R Murray  
Assistant Head Teacher



Miss A Shilliday  
Head of Year 11