

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

9 February 2022

Dear Year 13 Students and their Parents/Carers

Summer 2022 A Level Examination and Key Dates

As we head towards the end of the Year 13 trial examinations, we write with an update and some key dates for the Summer 2022 A Level examinations. Unfortunately, illness and periods of isolation have disrupted these recent trial examinations for some, but the experience of sitting formal examinations and an understanding of what needs to be achieved during the upcoming revision period, is important if students are to achieve their potential in the summer.

Extenuating circumstances for the Year 13 trial examinations

Students are reminded they must make us aware of any extenuating circumstances that may have affected their performance in these recent trial examinations via this Google form by Friday 11 February 2022. Extenuating circumstances is an event that was outside of the student's control at the time of, or immediately before, the assessment (such as illness, family crisis or bereavement). This information will not be used to adjust marks at this time, but will be taken into consideration if A Level examinations are cancelled and we are required to use this assessment as part of the grading process.

Update on Summer 2022 A Level examinations

The government continues to be firmly committed to examinations going ahead, if at all possible. You may recall that earlier in the academic year, the government did announce some 'adaptations' to this summer's public examination process to recognise the disruption to students' learning. These were:

- Grading standards will be a 'transition year' to reflect that we are in a pandemic recovery period and students' education has been disrupted. In 2022, the grade boundaries set by exam boards will reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019 so that, at a national level, more students get higher grades in 2022 than before the pandemic. It is expected that 2023 results will return to the usual grade profile.
- The examination boards will provide advance information on the focus of the content of the Summer 2022 exams for the majority of subjects at A Level. The policy intention of providing advance information is that it will support students' revision. This advance information has now been published. Our Subject Leaders are currently reviewing this information and on our INSET day, this Friday, all departments will be planning their curriculum and revision schedules to ensure students are best prepared for examinations this Summer.

This advance information will be shared with students in due course. However, if you wish to look at this information yourself it is available on the examination boards' public websites. The weblink and the subjects studied with each examination board are given in the table below.





Examination Board with weblink to advance information	A Level subjects
AQA	Biology, Drama & Theatre, Economics, English Literature, French, German, Music, PE, Physics, Psychology, Sociology, Spanish
Edexcel	Further Maths, Geography, History, Maths, Photography, Politics
<u>OCR</u>	Chemistry, Computer Science

JCQ, the body that represents the examination boards, have created a webpage (here) that contains links to this advance information but also other relevant guidance from the JCQ, Ofqual and the Department for Education. You may find some of these documents, especially the FAQ document, useful.

Key dates

The examination boards have published timetables for the examinations this Summer. Students will receive personalised timetables in due course, but we thought is helpful to confirm some key dates:

- A Level written examinations start on Monday 23 May 2022.
- Year 13 students will therefore **stand down** on Friday 20 May; their final day of lessons will be Thursday 19 May and a stand down celebration will take place on Friday morning.
- A Level MFL oral examinations will take place 2 13 May. Students will be informed of the exact date by their teacher.
- The **contingency date** for Summer 2022 is Wednesday 29 June. This contingency day will be used for any examinations that need to be rescheduled 'in the event of widespread, sustained national or local disruption to examinations during the Summer 2022 examination series'. Students should be aware that they may be required to sit examinations on this day.
- Examination **results** will be released to students on Thursday 18 August.

Further details related to these key dates will be communicated nearer to the time.

After another very busy half term, we wish you and your family a restful and healthy half term break.

Kind regards

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Mrs E Berks (Deputy Headteacher)

Ms G Absalom (Assistant Headteacher)

Mr A Porter (Head of Sixth Form: Academic)

Mrs W Rowland (Head of Sixth Form: Pastoral)