



# PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

10 February 2022

Dear Year 11 Students and their Parents/Carers

## GCSE Examinations Summer 2022 Update and Key Dates

As we reach the half term break, we write with an update and some key dates for the Summer 2022 GCSE examinations.

### Update on Summer 2022 GCSE 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 GCSE.** 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.

Please note that there is no advance information for the following GCSE subjects; Art, English Literature, Geography and History. For Art, there is no written examination and hence advance information is not relevant in this subject. In English Literature, Geography and History more significant changes, with optional topics and content, were announced in October and the departments have already adapted their curriculum and revision plans accordingly.

Examination Board with weblink to advance information	GCSE subjects
<a href="#">AQA</a>	Biology, Chemistry, Combined Science (usually called Double Science by the students), Computer Science, D&T, English Language, Food Preparation & Nutrition, French, German, Music, PE, Physics, Spanish
<a href="#">Edexcel</a>	Maths, RS
<a href="#">OCR</a>	Drama, Economics

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.

### **GCSE grading contingency plan**

Whilst the government's current intention is that examinations go ahead this summer, you may recall they published a contingency plan that would allow GCSE grades to be determined through teacher assessment in the event of examinations being cancelled. As part of this contingency plan, schools were asked to ensure there were formal assessment points across the academic year. In planning these formal assessments, we are extremely mindful that multiple assessments, without sufficient time for teaching, revision and feedback, is of limited benefit if students are to achieve the best possible outcomes and remain positive about their studies.

With this in mind, we can confirm that there will be an assessment period between 14 - 31 March. Students will sit an assessment in the majority, but not all, subjects. Most of the assessments will be 45 minutes in length and the majority of assessments will take place during lesson time for the subject (i.e. the Science assessments will take place during Science lessons). The assessments will be spread across the assessment window, so that students feel they are able to prepare for each assessment as well as continue with their work and revision in other subjects. Appropriate provision will be made for students with agreed access arrangements.

As well as fulfilling the requirements of the contingency plan, these assessments will be planned such that they are a valuable part of the revision process and will provide students with feedback that will be helpful in preparing for examinations this summer.

Full details of the timings and arrangements for these assessments will be shared with students after half term. We politely request that no absences (for example, medical appointments) are requested for these times.

### **Key dates**

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

- GCSE **written examinations start** on Monday 16 May 2022.
- Year 11 students will therefore **stand down** at the end of the day on Friday 13 May.
- GCSE MFL oral examinations will take place 25 April - 6 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 25 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.

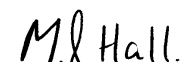
Kind regards



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