



PARMITER'S SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1681

Headmaster: Mr M Jones BA MEd

9 December 2022

Dear Year 11 Students and their Parents/Carers

GCSE Summer 2023 update & trial exams extenuating circumstances

Over the last few weeks you may have been aware that the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofqual have published information relating to GCSE examinations in Summer 2023. We summarise the key points in this letter, as well as providing some information about exam dates in the summer.

Update on Summer 2023 GCSE examinations

The DfE and Ofqual have recently confirmed the following:

Enhanced formula sheets will continue in GCSE Maths, Combined (Double) Science and Physics (Triple Science). In Summer 2022 students were issued with enhanced formula sheets for these exams. This will continue in Summer 2023. The exam boards have not yet confirmed exactly what will be included, but students were provided with enhanced formula sheets for their trial exams (using our professional judgement and experience from last year to decide which formulae to include). Once the confirmed formulae sheets for Summer 2023 are published, they will be shared with students in the relevant lessons.

GCSE modern foreign language (MFL) assessment will not assess students on unfamiliar vocabulary. The changes made to GCSE MFL exams for Summer 2022 will now continue indefinitely. Specifically, Ofqual has removed the previous requirement for exam boards to assess candidates on unfamiliar vocabulary, meaning that all the words students are assessed on should be in the exam board vocabulary lists.

Schools are required to undertake trial exams under exam conditions and retain students' work. Students are currently completing their trial exams, which are all run under exam conditions. The DfE and Ofqual's contingency plan requires that we retain the marked exam papers. In the Spring Term, marked papers will be returned to students so they can be reviewed in class. However, students will **not** be able to take the papers home.

In the very unlikely event that GCSE exams are cancelled in Summer 2023, trial exam grades may be used. There is a clear message from both DfE and Ofqual: exams are expected to go ahead. However, in the very unlikely event that the outcomes of these trial exams need to be used as part of a teacher assessment grading process, we are giving students the opportunity to make us aware of any extenuating circumstances that may have affected their performance.

If you believe that your performance in the Year 11 trial exams may be affected by an event that is outside of your control at the time of, or immediately before, the assessment (such as illness, family crisis or bereavement), then you need to make us aware via [this Google form](#) by Friday 16 December 2022.

This information will not be used to adjust your mark at this time, but will be taken into consideration if GCSE exams are cancelled and we are required to use this assessment as part of the grading process. Please note that you are not required to complete this form in regard to school-based events, such as fire alarms and heating issues.

Key dates

The examination boards have published timetables for the examinations this Summer. It will be some time before students receive personalised timetables but we thought it helpful to confirm some key dates:

- GCSE **written examinations start** on Monday 15 May 2023.
- Practical and oral examinations will take place before this date:
 - **GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition:** Tuesday 21 March 2023
 - **GCSE Art & Art Textiles:** Wednesday 19 & Thursday 20 April 2023
 - **GCSE MFL orals:** 24 April - 10 May 2023. Students will be informed of the exact date by their teacher.
 - **GCSE Drama:** to be confirmed. We have requested dates in March but the dates issued to schools are determined by the visiting examiner from the exam board.
 - **GCSE PE moderation:** to be confirmed. This usually takes place in April, but the date will be issued to us by the visiting moderator from the exam board.
- The **contingency date** for Summer 2023 is Wednesday 28 June. This contingency day will be used for any written examinations that need to be rescheduled 'in the event of widespread, sustained national or local disruption to examinations during the Summer 2023 examination series'. Students should be aware that they may be required to sit examinations on this day and must ensure they are available on this date.
- Examination **results** will be released to students on Thursday 24 August 2023.

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

Kind regards



Mrs E Berks (Deputy Headteacher)



Ms G Absalom (Assistant Headteacher)