



KHD/jm

4<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

## Examinations 2022

On Thursday last week, the DfE and Ofqual published a number of documents setting out their plans for GCSE, A levels and vocational (BTEC) qualifications. The key changes to what they are calling a 'transition year', are as follows:

- There will be optional topics and content in GCSE English Literature, History and Geography.
- GCSE and A level Art and Design students will be assessed on their portfolio only.
- Examination boards will provide advanced information about the focus of the content of examinations for all GCSE and A level subjects with the exception of English Literature, History and Geography, by 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022.
- Students will be given a formulae sheet for GCSE Maths and a revised equation sheet for GCSE Physics and Combined Science.
- Examinations are planned to go ahead as they would normally, in the summer of 2022.

In terms of grading, this has not been clearly defined, but we are told that 2022 will be a transition year, to reflect a pandemic recovery period and the disruption to learning. Grades awarded will reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019. There is an expectation that grades will be higher than 2019, but not as high as 2020 or 2021. Grade boundaries will be set, but only after students have sat examinations by the senior examiner for each subject, based on the work produced by students across the country. We have been advised to use the 2019 grade boundaries as a benchmark. There is a consultation taking place about what would happen if students are unable to take examinations next summer, due to the pandemic and, therefore, this may further influence how and when examinations take place.

To be honest, we are working through all of these statements ourselves, but it is safe to say, examinations in the summer of 2022 will take place, unless Covid-19 stops that from happening, which we cannot predict. As a school we will, therefore, be preparing all of our students across Years 10, 11 and 13 for the examination period, as we would do in any normal year. We will also be using the 2019 benchmarks to help set our grade boundaries, which we will share with the students.

We will inform you of any further changes that may occur to the examination system, or to the content of the course being followed, as and when this is announced. We will do everything we can to ensure that our students are well prepared and supported for the examinations they will face in May/June 2022.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Yours faithfully

Miss K Hayward  
Executive Principal