

2022 02 24

Dear Year 11 Parents/carers,

I am writing to you to update you about the summer 2022 GCSE exams.

**Exams WILL be going ahead as normal**, the only difference being exams boards have provided some additional guidance to support students. Exam boards have released lists of topics to be examined in the Summer GCSE exam series last week for some courses and these lists have been shared with our teachers.

The lists and information given by exam boards is not very user friendly and our teachers will be working on adapting them and potentially adding extra notes/resources to support our students' understanding in the lead up to the summer exams. They will also be tailoring work in lessons to ensure students are well prepared based on the advance information.

### **What does this mean?**

Schools still have to teach the full GCSE course to students to ensure they have a breadth of understanding that will support them moving into post 16 studies. The topic list tells us things we know will definitely be examined in the summer from the qualification specification.

The content of most of the GCSEs **has not been reduced** we were told this at the start of the academic year. So, the exams are the same difficulty and examine, in most cases, the same varied array of knowledge of previous years. **The only difference is that we have been informed which are the major topics that will be examined.** It is important to note that there may be small mark questions on other topics but, all main mark question topics are listed by the exam boards in this new documentation.

### **Should my child base their revision on these lists?**

Yes, but with some caution. What the questions will look like we do not know, but teachers will use their professional experience of the exam for their subject to guide students on what most likely to expect.

All main mark question topics are listed by the exam boards in this new documentation. However, it is important to note that there may be small mark questions on other topics. That's why students have been taught the full course and will need to revise the full course. The main focus of their revision should be based on the topics given to them by their subject teachers. **Students need to use the information given to them by their subject teachers to inform their revision in preparation for the summer exams.**

All students across the country have access to this same information. Grades are assigned based on student comparisons. We believe with focus and hard work our students will perform well against their peers nationally, thus enabling them to reach their potential. However, if your child chooses not to prepare they are putting themselves at a greater disadvantage than in a normal year as all students across the country will have seen the content lists. The element of "luck" if the right topics come up based on what a student has revised the most has been removed.

Your child will be sitting their GCSE examinations in 3 months. We understand that it is a daunting time for both parents/carers as well as children and we want to support you during this time. We are in this together and we all want our students to succeed. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards,

S Johal  
Vice Principal