

## Examination Update as at January 10<sup>th</sup> 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We hope you have had a happy and healthy New Year thus far. It is an exciting but crucial time for our Year 11 students with just sixteen academic weeks remaining until GCSE examinations commence!

Following an assembly we delivered to Year 11 last week, I wanted to update you about what Ofqual and the Department for Education's current stance is on the Summer 2022 GCSE examinations and what we are doing to support students.

Our students completed their first set of GCSE mock examinations in the week beginning Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Results have been returned, with students being explicitly aware of the GCSE grade they achieved and how they need to develop.

**The second set of mock examinations will take place in the week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022.** This will give staff and students another indicator of what they can do well, what they need to do to improve further and an approximate GCSE grade.

**Currently, the GCSE examinations are still scheduled to go ahead in May/ June 2022.** However, the Department for Education has put in place a contingency plan in case students' education is hindered further due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

If the examinations are postponed, students will be given Teacher Assessed Grades as in the previous two years: August 2020 and 2021. This means that teachers will take into account non-examination assessments (previously coursework), mock examinations and any other internal examinations students have completed. Any assessments given must be taken using the following guidance:

- Students should not know the questions in the assessment beforehand
- Students should work independently and without assistance (other than as required for a reasonable adjustment)
- Students should not have access to books or revision notes and the assessment should be timed and supervised

As examinations, at this moment, are still going ahead, Ofqual and the DfE have given some additional support to students if they have to complete examinations in summer 2022:

- GCSE English Language – the spoken language assessment will not be recorded;
- GCSE English Literature – the 15 power and conflict poems have been removed;
- GCSE Mathematics and Combined Science – students will receive the equations and formulae sheets at the start of the exam;
- GCSE Art – just a portfolio should be completed;
- GCSE Food and Nutrition – the food investigation task is no longer required;
- GCSE Media Studies - the non-exam assessment can include a prototype.

If you have questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me at [claire.fairburn@theedgeacademy.co.uk](mailto:claire.fairburn@theedgeacademy.co.uk). If there are any developments regarding this, we will of course let you know as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

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