

Dear Parents of Students in Year 11

SUMMER EXAMINATIONS 2021

You may be aware that the Government has issued further information surrounding plans for the external examination series for Summer 2021. Whilst we await specific details that will be provided by the examination boards during January 2021, below are the key points which have been taken from the Government's announcement:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE's
- examination aids – like formula sheets – provided in some examinations giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise
- additional examinations to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main examinations or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation
- a new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country

These measures are in addition to the three-week delay to examinations that was announced in October and should provide much needed comfort to students, parents and teachers. They should also enable students to receive examination results that fairly reflect their efforts and ability, and mitigate the challenges they have faced during such a crucial stage of their education.

Whilst no specific information has been declared yet, I understand that adjustments will also be made to Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs) that students complete this summer.

I would like to assure you that, as more information emerges, we will give careful thought to the practical application of these changes and prioritise supporting and preparing students as best as possible for their GCSE and vocational qualifications. As and when we are able to do so, further information will be shared with students and their parents.

Yours faithfully

T Costello

Headteacher