

3 November 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

### **RE: A Level Exams: Summer 2023 and beyond**

You may have seen that Ofqual (the regulator for exams and qualifications in England) have confirmed their plans for exams and grading in 2023.

Ofqual state: *"In 2023, we will return to pre-pandemic grading as the next step in getting back to normal. We expect that overall results in 2023 will be much closer to pre-pandemic years than results since 2020."*

This means that, at a national level, grades issued in 2023 will be broadly in line with those issued in 2019. Due to the fact that Year 13 students have had disruption to their education (although not during their two-year A Level courses), Ofqual is putting in place a 'safety net' to ensure that overall grades in 2023 are not lower than in 2019, even if the quality of students' work is of a lower standard nationally. This means that, generally speaking, Year 13 students have the same chance of achieving a grade A-E in 2023 as in 2019.

Last year, students received 'advanced information' from the exam boards which gave students prior notice of the topics which were to be assessed in the exams. This will not be the case this year. Students will need to learn and revise the whole specification as normal. Any topics could come up in the exams.

The mock exams for Year 13 will take place at the start of January. We are delighted with the hard work students are already putting in to prepare for these mock exams. If a student is absent from school during a mock exam, we are able to give the student another opportunity to sit the mock exam in school. If a student is absent for more than one mock exam, the mock exam paper will be made available on Microsoft Teams. We ask that students complete the mock exam at home under exam conditions and within the allotted time (when they are well enough). Once complete, students should send mock exams back into school to be marked.

JCQ (The Joint Council for Qualifications) publish rules on exams and coursework which all students should familiarise themselves with. The school will provide students with hard copies of these, but electronic versions are available here:

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents/>

In order to further support students with their revision, for both the mocks and summer exams, we already have a range of measures in place which will continue to increase in the coming weeks and months:

- We are providing each student with a £50 allowance to spend on revision guides and materials. More details on this will be shared with students in the coming weeks.

- Period 6 lessons and Hub support will aid student preparation. These are already occurring in the following subjects:

Monday lunch	Biology/Chemistry Hub
Monday period 6	Chemistry revision
Tuesday Lunch	Physics Hub
Tuesday period 6	Maths Hub
Tuesday period 6	Biology revision
Wednesday period 6	Geography revision
Friday period 6	Physics revision

- Form tutors will be working with students to create revision timetables

Currently, Year 13 students considering applications to university are finalising their UCAS applications, with the aim of these all being sent by **Thursday 15 December**. Some students have already completed their applications and are currently receiving offers from universities.

For students who are considering pursuing an apprenticeship, we have other bespoke support in place. This includes an apprenticeship group, which students can join, which will meet regularly with a careers advisor. Our next apprenticeship events are as follows:

- Thursday 17 November  
Apprenticeship Fair at South Hunsley School. Transport will be provided.
- Wednesday 23 November  
Apprenticeship Workshop. 08.45 am in the study centre  
(Where to find apprenticeships and how to apply)
- Wednesday 30 November  
Driffield School Careers Event. 5.00 - 7.30 pm 30+ local employers exhibiting

Thank you for your support. If you require any further information please feel free to contact me.

Yours faithfully,



Mr D Andrews  
Head of Sixth Form