

3 November 2022

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

RE: GCSE Exams: Summer 2023

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 states: *“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 11 students have experienced disruption to their education (although not during their two-year GCSE 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 11 students have the same chance of achieving a grade 4, 5 or 9 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.

Students will be given a formula sheet for their maths and science exams. This was introduced last year as a measure to support students and has been retained for 2023. Teachers will share these formula sheets with students once they have been published.

The mock exams for Year 11 will take place in the two weeks from Monday 5 December. We are absolutely delighted with the hard work students are putting in to prepare for these mock exams.

If a student is absent from school during a mock exam, we will make sure the student is given another opportunity to sit the mock exam in school. If a student is absent from school for more than one mock exam, we can make alternative arrangements for them to complete this at home, either via Microsoft Teams or their school email. We ask that students who complete any mock exams at home do this under exam conditions and within the allotted time (when they are well enough). Once complete, students should

send mock exams back to the exams office who will then pass it back to the relevant subject leader for it 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 via this link: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents/>

In order to further support students with their revision, 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.

Thank you for your support. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Evans', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Evans
Assistant Headteacher