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13th October 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Re. Summer 2021 Examinations (13th October 2020)

I am writing to update you on an important development regarding next year's summer examinations which mainly affects students in Year 11 and Year 13.

Yesterday, the Department for Education announced that GCSE and A Level examinations will go ahead next summer and that teachers and students will be given more time to prepare for them, to help make up for the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Most examinations will take place three weeks later than usual. The summer examination series will start on Monday, 7th June 2021 and end on Monday, 2nd July 2021 for almost all GCSE and A Level qualifications. However, one GCSE English and one GCSE mathematics paper will be scheduled before the summer half term as will some A Level subjects with typically low entry numbers.

It is also expected that the majority of vocational and technical qualifications that are also taken by our students will look to align their timetables with the 2021 exams.

Results days during the summer holiday will also now be later than usual to provide sufficient time for marking and moderation of examination papers. The A Level results day (Year 13) will be on Tuesday, 24th August 2021 and GCSE results day (Year 11) will be on Friday, 27th August 2021.

Contingency plans are being drawn up by the Department for Education and examination boards to address what might happen if there is further significant disruption caused by COVID-19.

These announcements follow earlier communications from examination boards about amendments to content and expectations that have been implemented for some, but not all, qualifications for this year.

The school is working very hard to prepare our students for these examinations with additional support sessions already underway around the normal school curriculum and further strategies will be implemented as we move through the next few weeks and months.

Other announcements made by the Prime Minister yesterday about the three-tier lockdown system do not have a direct impact on schools which will remain open even under the strictest local conditions. The school continues to keep a close eye on the COVID figures in our area (currently 'medium risk') and will review our own arrangements should this change.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

Mr Jeremy Scott
Headteacher