

RE: Summer 2022 Exams Update

Dear parents/carers,

Last week, Ofqual's Chief Regulator wrote to heads of schools and colleges clarifying the arrangements for GCSEs and A levels for the year ahead. To support students taking their exams next summer, in response to the disruption to education caused by the pandemic, a range of measures have been introduced these include:

- students taking GCSEs in English literature, history and geography will not need to cover the usual range of content in the exams – the exam boards have published information on their websites on how this will work for each of their specifications in these subjects. Students taking GCSEs in all other subjects will be given advance information about the focus of the content of the exams to support their revision
- students taking AS and A levels will be given advance information about the focus of the content of the exams to support their revision
- students taking GCSE mathematics will be given in their exams copies of formulae they would in other years have to memorise
- students taking GCSE physics and combined science will be given in their exams a sheet covering all the equations they might need to apply in the exams

Exam boards will publish the advance information for GCSE, AS and A levels no later than 7 February 2022. Staff will share this information with students once available and tailor revision for the remaining academic year accordingly.

Ofqual have also confirmed details of the grading standard to be used, this will reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019. Exam boards will set grade boundaries so that more students get higher grades in 2022 than before the pandemic. The intention of this is to provide a safety net for students who might otherwise just miss out on a higher grade. The grade boundaries for our internal assessments used in school will also reflect this.

The government is clear that students entering GCSEs, AS or A levels in 2022 should expect to take exams in the summer and complete any non-exam assessments (coursework) in the usual way throughout the year. In the **highly unlikely** event that the 2022 exams cannot go ahead, students' grades will instead be determined by teachers, using a Teacher Assessed

Grade approach. School Leaders have been asked to ensure that students are provided with opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding across the range of content they have been taught. Should examinations be cancelled, the assessment data we propose using would consist of the December Mocks, March Mocks and where applicable, coursework. We would also complete further internal assessments in May/June should external exams not go ahead. Like last year, our priority would be to ensure we deliver a grading system that is student focused, consistent, fair and robust and **affords students the best opportunity to demonstrate what they are capable of.**



This assessment data would be used holistically; we are acutely aware that student performance typically improves with time, therefore students who perform more highly in the later assessments would not be disadvantaged by a poor score in the December Mocks. We will of course keep you informed throughout the year should there be further updates from Ofqual or the DFE.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that the mocks begin on the 29th November and that an overview of the timetable, revision lists and resources to support students preparing for these assessments are on our website, the link can be found here: <https://www.greatsankey.org/curriculum/year-11-revision-area>. Students were also issued with personalised timetables earlier this half term.

Following the mocks, you will receive a Progress Report in January. Further to this, there will be an opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers on the 20th January as part of our virtual parents evening. More details regarding this will be shared closer to the time. As always should you have questions in the mean time please contact your child's year team using the email address Intake2017@greatsankey.org and our staff will be happy to help.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs Kane
Deputy Headteacher