

Dear Parent /Carer,

December 2022

Our Year 11 students have made a great start to their final year at Longdendale High School and have demonstrated fantastic attitudes towards their learning and assessments. They are currently really focused on their mock exams and we can all be really proud of how they are conducting themselves throughout this period.

You may have seen headlines on the 29th September and then more recently on the 30th November regarding decisions linked to the exams in summer 2023. I am writing to explain more fully what this means for students preparing for GCSEs and VTQs this year.

The government, the exams regulator Ofqual and the exam boards have confirmed the following for exams in summer 2023:

- At a national level, grades will be in line with grades in 2019. This means that, generally speaking, students have the same chance of getting a grade 9 or 5 at GCSE this year, as in 2019.
- Formula sheets will be provided in the GCSE maths, physics and combined science exams, meaning that students will not need to memorise these formulae or equations. Students will be provided with these formula sheets for their mock exams they are currently completing and were already aware of this.
- Advanced information about where to focus revision, which was provided in 2022, will not be provided this year. Students will need to learn and revise the whole specification as normal. Any topic could come up in the exam.
- If a student has studied the whole course but is ill with Covid during the exam period they may be able to receive a grade by sitting one paper in the qualification rather than the previous rule of 25% of the assessment, although certification of illness will be needed.
- For the exam timetable, in most qualifications, there is at least one week between the first and last exam paper to ensure that if students are ill for one paper they are able to sit another.
- Unlike last year, there is not an expectation that we will collect and retain assessment evidence for students at three points throughout the year as a contingency arrangement in case any exams are cancelled in summer 2023. There is however a requirement that we keep any mock exam papers students have completed, so although we will go through how exam answers could have been improved with students, students will not be able to do any additional writing on their exam papers after the mock exams in lessons, or take the exam papers home from school. If any exams were to be cancelled in summer 2023 we would confirm what work / assessment evidence would be used to determine students grades.

If you have any questions or queries, or I can be of any further help, please get in touch.

Kind regards
Miss Ayre