Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well and you are continuing to cope with the many challenges that

COVID‐19 is still presenting to us all.

We write to you today as a team of staff committed to support students with the various academic challenges that lie ahead of them this year. You will have seen from our other recent letters that there a number of different initiatives and events that we are putting on to help our Year 11 students. We are aware that a strong partnership between the academy and home will get our students to a successful results day in August 2022 and beyond!

The purpose of this letter is to ensure you are fully informed of the proposed government changes to exams in Summer 2022. Firstly, I just wanted to share with you the link to a government press release on the issue of the awarding of Summer 2022 GCSE and A-Level exam grades:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022>

We await further student-friendly guidance documents from the government. As an academy we are providing a link to a Times Education Supplement narrated presentation on this topic. This gives an accurate and concise overview on the changes to exams in 2022:

<https://www.tes.com/news/exams-2022-gcse-alevel-ofqual-exams>

Guidance around the non-examination assessment (NEA) within subjects has already been released by the government and is the responsibility of staff to implement during the rest of the academic year. A further detailed description of these changes can be found via the link below:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/994062/6801_1_nea_consultation_decisions.pdf>

**Overview of Changes to Exams**

* Choice of topics in GCSE English literature and History exams
* Choice of content in GCSE Geography (the removal of required fieldwork)
* Changes to the requirements for the delivery of practical activities in Science subjects (students can learn about required practical activities through teacher demonstration and not actively doing them)
* Assessment in Art and Design will be on students’ portfolio work only and not practical exam
* The provision of support materials (formula sheets) in GCSE Mathematics, Physics and Combined Science exams
* The provision of advance information on the focus of the content of exams, in the majority of subjects at GCSE, AS and A level (in all subjects apart from the ones listed above). This advanced notice on some of the content of exams will be sent out by exam boards between 7th February-28th February 2022. The amount of content students are aware of in advance will differ from subject to subject.

**How will grading work this year?**

* 2022 will be a ‘transition year’ to reflect the fact that we are in a pandemic recovery period and students’ education has been disrupted.
* The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation ‘Ofqual’ is a non-ministerial government department that regulates qualifications, exams and tests in England. Ofqual will therefore aim for grades in 2022 to reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019. This means that results overall next year will be higher than in 2019 but not as high as in 2020.
* Exam boards will use data as a starting point, to align their standards in a subject but the grade boundaries for each specification will be set by the senior examiners after they have reviewed the work produced by students.
* When predicting grades for UCAS this year, Ofqual recommends that teachers use the 2019 standard as the basis, but that they give borderline students the benefit of any doubt.
* In 2023, Ofqual aims to return to results that are in line with those in pre-pandemic years

**When will results be released?**

The government have announced that GCSE and A-Level results days are going back to the usual format of being on separate weeks as below:

* Thursday 18th August – A-Level (Year 13) Results Day
* Thursday 25th August – GCSE (Year 11) Results Day

Further details about these days will be sent out during the Summer term in 2022.

**Finally...**

These adjustments are welcomed by the academy on behalf of the students, parents and staff. However, we want our students to continue to be prepared for the forthcoming assessments. All forms of intervention and support will continue to make this a reality.

If you have any questions or require any further support/guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us – y11team@tscacademy.org.uk A subject by subject breakdown of changes is appended to this letter which I hope will be helpful to you.

All the very best, take care and stay safe.



Chris Vallance

Director for Student Experience

**Subject by Subject Breakdown of Changes to GCSE/A-Level Exam Assessment**

**For GCSE English Literature, History and Ancient History:**

* choice of topics beyond a common core on which students would answer questions in the exams

**For GCSE Geography:**

* choice of content beyond a common core on which students would answer questions in the exams,

**Paper 1 – Living with the physical environment**

No Change.

**Paper 2 - Challenges in the human environment**

**Current structure**

Students answer questions on:

* Section A: Urban issues and challenges
* Section B: The changing economic world
* Section C: The challenge of resource management

**Proposed change**

Students answer questions on:

* Section A: Urban issues and challenges **AND EITHER**
* Section B: The changing economic world **OR**
* Section C: The challenge of resource management (to be a comparable number of marks to Section B)

**Paper 3 - Geographical applications**

No Change (Questions on students’ own fieldwork already removed for 2022)

**For GCSE Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Combined Science, AS Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Geology and AS and A level Environmental Science:**

* teachers are provided with the opportunity to deliver practical science work by demonstration so that students could observe a demonstration by the teacher or observe the practical work being undertaken remotely, for example, by watching a demonstration on-line or on video.

**To the Practical Endorsement for A level Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Geology:**

* teachers are allowed to assess the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) across the minimum number of practical activities required for the student to demonstrate competence rather than being required to complete at least 12 practical activities as required by the DfE subject content

**For GCSE, AS and A level Art and Design:**

* students should be assessed on their portfolio only

**All Other Subjects**

We are proposing the following in all subjects except GCSE English literature, Ancient History, History and Geography and GCSE, AS and A level Art and Design in 2022:

* the provision of advance information about the focus of the content of exams

**Support materials**

We propose the following in 2022:

**For GCSE Mathematics:**

* access to a formulae sheet in the exam room

**For GCSE Physics and Combined Science:**

* access to a revised equation sheet in the exam room, showing all relevant equations