

Headteacher: Mr J Parr BA Hons

9th December 2020

The Government's Announcement : Exceptional Measures to Support Students

Sitting Exams in Summer 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

You will be aware that the Government made an announcement last week which outlined a package of exceptional measures for next summer's exams in order to minimise the disruption caused by the COVID-19 outbreak and to make the assessment process as fair as possible.

In recognition of the challenges faced by students this year the following measures have been proposed:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so that students are not disadvantaged
- students will receive advance notice of some topic areas covered in their exams
- aids, such as formula sheets, will be provided for some exams with the aim of reducing the amount of time required to memorise information and to help build confidence whilst in exam conditions
- additional exams will be timetabled to enable students who have missed an exam due to illness or self-isolation to sit a paper
- a new expert group has been set up to look at differential learning and to monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country

These measures recognise that, while teachers have gone above and beyond to support their pupils during this difficult time, some young people have had their teaching disrupted more than others. The Government has therefore decided that the fairest way to assess students is to run exams with the additional support outlined above. There will, of course, be more detail to follow, but the clarity that this announcement brings is very welcome.

The Government have provided two documents that we have been asked to share with you. The first is a letter from The Secretary of State to all students taking exams this year to explain the changes. The second is a Question and Answers document for parents and carers. You will find both documents attached to this email in a separate attachment called 'Government Information on Exams 2021'.

With best wishes,

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