

Dear Parents and Year 11 students

GCSE exams 2021

We are aware that since our resumption of face to face teaching in September, students have been working hard in GCSE classes in this most important exam year. This has been an anxious time as debates over what exams might look like in 2021, and whether centre assessed grades might be in the mix, have been ongoing. We have been waiting for confirmation around arrangements for the summer 2021 exam series. Last week the Department for Education confirmed that GCSE exams **will** take place in summer 2021, and that the start of the summer exam series will be moved back by three weeks.

This will provide more time for teachers and students to prepare for the exams taking into consideration the missed teaching time and disruption caused by the current pandemic.

The exam series will start on 7th June and end on 2nd July for almost all GCSEs. The exception to this is that **one GCSE maths and one GCSE English exam will be held just before the May half-term** to allow any Year 11 pupils who are affected by Covid-19 the best possible chance of still sitting a paper in each of these core subjects. The dates for these papers have not yet been published, but half term dates are Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June, so it is likely these two exams will be in the week beginning Monday 24th May.

To allow time for papers to be marked, results days will also be later than usual and will be Friday 27th August 2021 for GCSEs.

The deadline date for any subjects requiring coursework submissions has not yet been confirmed. As soon as this date has been finalised we will let you know.

Please make sure that these dates are in your diary and that you do not book holidays in the exam window. The official leaving date for Year 11 will be in July after the last exams have finished – this will probably be in the week beginning 5th July and we will confirm this as soon as we can.

Although the DfE has confirmed that exams will take place next summer, can I take this opportunity to remind students that given the unpredictable nature of the pandemic, it would be very wise to be working hard all year. Teachers will be gathering evidence of performance and assessments on a continuous basis to use for submitting predicted grades from homework, classwork, mock exams and other sources. This would also be normal practice should any students be unable to sit exams in extraordinary circumstances. Please do not rely on mock results in March to be an indicator of your abilities should circumstances change in the future.

Please do contact school should you have any queries.

Yours sincerely



Judith Schafer
Executive Headteacher