

19 November 2021

Arrangements for students taking qualifications in summer 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As promised, we are taking this opportunity to update you further on the arrangements for this summer. On 11 November 2021, HM Government and Ofqual, following a joint consultation, have published two documents about the arrangements for the exams in summer 2022.

To download each one, please click on the links below:

[Plan A: Decisions on contingency arrangements 2022](#)

[Plan B: Guidance for schools, colleges and other exam centres on contingency arrangements](#)

Plan A

In the first, HM Government has published its intentions for the exams next summer. At the start of the document, it states the following: ***“The government is clear that students entering GCSEs, AS or A levels in 2022 should expect to take exams in the summer.”***

To recognise the disruption that has been caused by the pandemic, the government has finalised the extra help students will be given to prepare for their exams, as follows:

- students taking GCSEs in English Literature, History, Ancient History and Geography will not need to cover the usual range of content in the exams.
- students taking GCSEs in all other subjects will be given advance information about the focus of the content of the exams to help them focus their revision; the advance information for GCSE will be published no later than 7 February 2022.
- students taking AS and A levels will be given advance information about the focus of the content of the exams to help them focus their revision; the advance information for AS and A levels will be published no later than 7 February 2022.
- students taking GCSEs in Mathematics will be given in their exams copies of formulae they would in other years have to memorise; our Year 11 students are starting to use these formulae sheets in lessons.
- 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; our Year 11 students are starting to use these equation sheets in lessons.

Having detailed these mitigations, the document reiterates that “the government is firmly committed to exams going ahead in summer 2022”.

However, the document went on to outline that, “nevertheless, we need to have contingency plans in place for the unlikely event that exams have to be cancelled again because of the pandemic”.

Plan B

Ofqual has published the contingency plans in, as the document expresses it, “the unlikely event that exams have to be cancelled again because of the pandemic”. The contingency plans include the following details:

The conditions under which students should be assessed

Ofqual has stated that students taking GCSEs, AS and A levels should be assessed under exam-like conditions wherever possible.

Students:

- should not know the questions in the assessment beforehand
- should work independently and without assistance (other than as required for a reasonable adjustment)
- should not have access to books or revision notes and the assessment should be timed and supervised

This will both help to ensure that the work is authentic and prepare students for exams in the summer.

When students should be assessed

Ofqual has specified that “centres should plan assessment opportunities to a timetable that secures evidence which could be used to inform TAGs (Teacher Assessed Grades) if necessary, including in the Autumn Term.”

Ofqual has suggested that “a sensible approach” would be to plan to assess students in each of the:

- second half of the Autumn Term 2021
- Spring Term of 2022
- first half of the Summer Term 2022

Ofqual states that these assessment points should “be used to provide evidence to inform TAGs if they are needed”.

The Mayflower Plan

To respond to this guidance from Ofqual, we are planning the following:

Autumn Term 2021

We will run the Year 11 Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs) as scheduled from 2 December.

We are proposing to run a set of short exams for Year 13 students with one paper per A Level subject, lasting a maximum of 60 minutes, assessing content covered this term. These short exams will take place in the last two weeks of this term, the weeks beginning 6 and 13 December, in the Sports Hall or the Gym, for the most part. The Exams Officer will prepare a schedule to be published next week.

Spring Term 2022

We will run the Year 13 PPEs as scheduled from 21 February 2022.

We are proposing to run a set of short exams for Year 11 students with one paper per GCSE qualification, lasting a maximum of 60 minutes. These short exams will take place at the same time as the Year 13 PPEs, in the Sports Hall or the Gym, for the most part.

The Exams Officer will publish a schedule for both, after the Christmas holidays.

Summer Term 2022

We will provisionally plan to hold a further set of short exams for students in both Year 11 and Year 13 for the first part of the Summer Term, should they be required because the

exams have been cancelled. If it has been confirmed that the exams will be taking place, as HM Government has signaled, we will not hold these short exams.

We believe that our plan will deliver on the Ofqual guidance and will also help our students to prepare for the summer.

Yours faithfully

Mr J Rowlands
Acting Deputy Headteacher