

November 2021

Contingency Plans for GCSEs in Summer 2022

Dear Parent / Carer

As you will be aware, the government is confident that exams will go ahead in summer 2022.

However, they have consulted on contingency plans that would only come into effect should the summer exams be cancelled due to COVID.

If, and only if, the summer exams did not go ahead, then the government has proposed that grades would be awarded using a Teacher Assessed Grades process. The DfE have said: "Confirmation now that if exams are cancelled, grades will be determined through teacher assessment will give teachers and students some certainty."

The consultation document suggests that we should collect evidence from students in the form of assessments taken under exam conditions at three points in the school year: in the second half of the Autumn term, during the Spring term and during the early part of the Summer term.

In the week beginning **6th December**, students in year 11 will take TAG Evidence Tests in the following subject areas:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Combined Science (two papers)
- Separate Science: Biology
- Separate Science: Chemistry
- Separate Science: Physics
- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Citizenship
- Computer Science

All other subjects have a Non Exam Assessment component (often referred to as coursework), and so students will not take TAG Evidence Tests in these subject areas this term.

For these assessments:

- Students can only be tested on the parts of the course they have already studied.
- They will be told the topics / areas of the specification they will be tested on in advance.

- The tests are shorter than most of the exams they will sit in the summer and will be between 30 and 60 minutes long.
- Students will be provided with revision materials to use at home and some subject areas are also running after school revision classes in the lead up to the tests.

Students must take these tests. The only circumstances under which students could miss a test would be either if they were isolating due to a positive COVID test result or if they had medical evidence that stated they were unable to attend school.

We will mark the tests after completion and students will be given feedback on their marks for each question. However, we are not able to grade the tests or return the test papers to the students, due to the TAG protocols set out in the consultation document.

You can read more about the government's plans for GCSEs here: [Ofqual - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/qualifications-in-2022)

We are expecting further details about contingency plans for Summer 2022 to be published in the next week. I will continue to update you about these plans as we receive more information.

Yours sincerely

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