

16 October 2020



Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Examinations update

As you may be aware, schools have been awaiting confirmation of the government's plans for the 2021 examination series for some time now. Some details were announced on Monday and I wanted to make you aware of these.

- ◆ Firstly the government says that GCSE and A level examinations (and their equivalents) will go ahead in England next year.
- ◆ Most examinations will be pushed back by about 3 weeks to allow for more teaching time.
- ◆ One English GCSE paper and one mathematics GCSE paper will still be scheduled for in the week beginning 24 May (just before half term). The rest of the examinations will start on 7 June and end on 2 July.
- ◆ Results will be released on Tuesday 24 August for A levels and Friday 27 August for GCSEs.
- ◆ We have already received confirmation from exam boards of any changes to specification content that have been made to compensate for missed teaching time. Monday's DfE announcement stated that no further adjustments to examination content would now be made.

Full details of Monday's announcement can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/students-to-be-given-more-time-to-prepare-for-2021-exams>

It is worth remembering that all students across the UK have lost out on the same amount of schooling. The difference will be in how hard those students work to catch up: hard work and diligence now will pay off next summer.

Students should now be spending time each day revising for their pre-public exams (PPEs). They have been given guidance about the most effective methods of independent study and should be scheduling time for this alongside their homework.

The vast majority of our Year 11 and Year 13 students are already working hard to prepare for next summer's examinations. Their first series of pre-public exams starts today and we will use these to help inform the provision of additional interventions, such as revision sessions, tutoring and mentoring. Further details about these will be sent out to parents and carers.

Yours sincerely



Alex Newton
Principal