



Moorside High School

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Dear Parents/carers and Year 11 students

Although the government is firmly committed to exams going ahead in summer 2022, they need to have contingency plans in place for the unlikely event that exams have to be cancelled again because of the pandemic. Over the last couple of years there have been some late changes to examination arrangements, which have been out of our control, but I believe that a high level of communication between school and home is essential to ensuring that parents/carers and students are kept up to date with any possible changes.

On 11th November Ofqual and the Department for Education (DfE) confirmed the contingency arrangements and guidance for next summer's GCSE exams.

There have already been adaptations to account for the impact of the pandemic as follows

- Some choice about topics or content to be assessed in English Literature, History and Geography
- Advance information of the focus of exam content, to help students focus their revision
- Giving students a formula sheet in maths and an expanded equations sheet in Physics and Combined Science
- Changes to the requirements for the delivery of practical activities in Science, and assessment in Art and Design

If there is a significant increase in disruption and/or a tightening of public health restrictions, they will introduce extra measures such as publishing the advance information sooner to help schools focus their remaining teaching time.

In the unlikely event that exams are not able to go ahead as planned, grades provided by schools will be used. Teachers will assess the students to provide them with opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding across the range of content they have been taught and in ways that cover the assessment objectives for the qualification.

Where assessments are scheduled to take place after the publication of the guidance, students must be told before they take each assessment that their performance in it would be used as part of the evidence to determine a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) if exams are cancelled.

I would like to reassure you, that we will certainly be putting this into practice. However, as this guidance was received following the start of the November mock examinations, we feel it is important to clarify that it is possible that we could use some of the assessments completed in this cycle, as a starting point, to inform TAGs next year, if the final examinations do not go ahead.

Alongside the November mock examinations, that could be used as a starting point, our aim will be to use the March mock examinations and other internal assessments, should the TAG process go ahead in 2022. We will always ensure that students are made aware if the assessment they are sitting will be used in the event of a TAG process. I am sure you will join us, in hoping that we are in a position where examinations can go ahead, and TAGs are not needed. From our experience over the past two years, students just want to sit their GCSE examinations and demonstrate just how amazing they are and how much they have prepared for the final outcome. If you have any questions regarding this, please do contact us.

We will be in touch soon with more information regarding our intervention plans to further support, motivate and challenge students.

C Smalley

Miss Smalley

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