



December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

## **Re: Changes to GCSE qualifications for the 2022 summer exam series**

As you may be aware, Ofqual have announced a series of changes to the GCSE and vocational courses for students taking their qualifications in 2022 to compensate for the lost curriculum time over their courses. Exam boards have since been working to implement these changes and have been releasing the information to schools over the past few weeks. An open letter from Ofqual to students outlining these changes has been released and may be found at this [link](#) and you will find a summary of the information in this letter.

Below you will find information for the GCSE subjects being awarded in 2022 with a list of any changes to the qualification. Where subjects have had the chance to alter their curriculum, please be assured that all subjects leaders have worked hard to implement these changes and have made very considered choices about which elements to remove from courses, where appropriate.

Please be aware that the list below contains information for GCSE subjects only at this stage.

Qualification	Changes to qualification
<b>Art and Design</b>	There will be no examination for GCSE Art this year. The grade will be based purely on the work produced as part of the students' portfolio.
<b>English Literature</b>	<b>Component 1:</b> There is an additional change to the component 1 exam which will be assessed as a one-hour Shakespeare paper (Macbeth) and a separate one hour Post-1914 Prose/Drama paper (An Inspector Calls). <b>Component 2:</b> Students will <b>not be examined on the poetry anthology</b> , but will still have questions on 19th Century Prose ( <i>A Christmas Carol</i> ) and Unseen Poetry.
<b>Geography</b>	Whilst the department has the option to remove one element of the course to narrow students' revision focus, all teaching of these optional units has already been completed. Teachers will advise students which units they should revise for in the near future.
<b>History</b>	<b>Paper 2</b> - will no longer contain an element on Superpower Relations and the Cold War, and will focus solely on the reign of Elizabeth I, 1558-88.
<b>Maths</b>	Students will be given a formulae sheet to use in the exam. This will also be used in lessons to ensure students are confident with its use.
<b>Science (Combined and Triple Science)</b>	Students will be given a revised equations sheet to use in the physics exam. This will also be used in lessons to ensure students are confident with its use.



Further to these changes, for all subjects **except** English Literature, history and geography, boards will provide further information to the school about the focus of the summer exams. This change has been implemented to allow students to better focus their revision in the months prior to the examinations. As yet we do not know the extent of the information we will receive from the exam boards, but we expect to receive this information in **February 2022**. As soon as we receive and have processed the information, I will write to you again to confirm the details.

We have also now received the final confirmation of the exam dates for summer 2022 from the exam boards. A complete timetable for all exams taking place next summer can be [found here](#). During the spring term, students will be given their individual exam timetables which will highlight every exam for which they are entered, and when their final exam will take place.

For the summer 2022 exam series a 'contingency' exam day has been arranged by the examination awarding bodies which all students need to be aware of. This contingency day for GCSE examinations has been put in place "in the event of widespread, sustained national or local disruption to examinations during the June 2022 examination series". The decision comes following the tragic events of summer 2017, namely the Manchester Arena attack and the Grenfell Tower fire, after which the Joint Council for Qualifications decided that there was the need to set aside an additional exam date should an exam need to be postponed.

The date that has been set aside as the contingency day is **Wednesday 29 June 2022**. This means that all exam candidates must be available to sit exams from the date of their first exam until Wednesday 29 June 2022 and no holiday arrangements should be made for prior to this contingency date. This decision is not a school decision and does apply to all students in all schools.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information for students and their families to take in, and as ever we will be offering support in school to help students understand any relevant changes to their qualifications as the need arises. Your children have shown extraordinary resilience throughout Key Stage 4; we are remarkably proud of them all, and have no doubt that they will continue to work hard throughout the remainder of their courses.

If you do have any further questions over the changes to the GCSE qualifications please do not hesitate to contact me, the relevant subject leader, or Mrs Warner, our exams officer, at school.

Yours sincerely



Jon Barton  
Vice Principal

