



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with an update on the end of term exams for year 13.

The upcoming end of term exams are going to provide this year group, not only with the opportunity to get an accurate understanding of their current academic position, but also to experience another exam series run under full JCQ regulations. The exams team are running this exam window and so Mrs Evans (exams officer) is coordinating the exams series and using a team of external invigilators to staff the exam room(s)

A summary of the JCQ rules is included in the student support guide attached to this email. This document outlines each subject's exam content and can be used to focus revision and preparation. If used in conjunction with lesson time, Teams/SMHW resources and any other revision opportunities, students should be confident as they enter the exams hall.

The year 13 PCE on Thursday 25th November is the perfect opportunity to discuss the upcoming exams with your child's subject teachers.

Despite their superb attitude, conduct and positivity, we are all too aware that this is an unprecedented time and the pressure that students are currently under could be triggering some negative emotions. Well-being is our top concern and we are keen to ensure that every student feels fully supported, not only with the exam process, but also all the other aspects of school life. If you feel your child is struggling, please do not hesitate to contact their tutor or Mr Constable.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students the very best of luck as they enter the final phase of this most unusual of Sixth Form journeys.

If you have any questions around the upcoming exams, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Yours faithfully,

P Whitehouse (Assistant Headteacher)



JCQ statement on exams 2022

In September 2021, the government announced the intention of returning to examinations this summer, following the disruption experienced over the last two years due to the Covid-19 pandemic. JCE released a statement relating to how they intend to support preparation for the exams 2022 by the use of advance information.

Use of advance information

Each awarding organisation will provide advance information on the focus of the content of summer 2022 exams in the majority of subjects at A level. The policy intention of providing advance information is that it will support students' revision. It will enable teachers to plan to adapt their teaching in the second half of the spring term if necessary, in the time before the examination, in the context of the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic which has disrupted the education of students sitting exams in summer 2022.

The advance information approach, and therefore precisely how it will be used by the school, will vary across subjects to best reflect the qualification structure.

The materials are intended to communicate, in advance, the focus of the content of the 2022 examination papers.

In line with the Department for Education's policy decision in England, awarding organisations will make advance information available on their public websites at the same time by 7 February 2022 at the latest. The Department for Education has also decided to retain the flexibility for advance information to be deployed at other points ahead of 7 February 2022 if circumstances require. At least a week's notice will be given if it is decided that advance information will be released earlier than 7 February 2022.

The materials may be used at any point from the date of release. The advance information cannot however be brought into the actual examinations.

End of term exams FAQ's

Q) How much work should students be doing for the exams?

A) For each hour in the classroom, students should be studying one hour outside of the classroom. This equates to 9 hours per fortnight per subject, or 4-5 hours per week per subject. An hour a day per subject is a good benchmark

Q) What happens if students fail?

A) These exams are timed to give a good indication of A-level current achievement. They are completed with enough of the course delivered to give a good indication as to how the student will achieve in the final exams but also with enough time left to 'put right', any areas of concern. Students rarely hit their targets at this stage. We do not expect students to be producing target grade performance at this stage. Students often move up one grade or more in-between now and the summer exams.

Q) I want to revise, but don't know how, what should I do?

A) This is a common problem. There are many ways to revise and students need to find what works for them. I have attached a guide to revision to this letter. To very good starting points are:



- 1) Structure revision time – students have a timetable for their working day, have one for the evening/weekend too
- 2) If they don't know what to do, complete past exam questions. There is a huge amount of research which suggests that for maximum gain vs time invested, past papers are the most effective tool

Q) My child seems anxious/stressed, what do I do?

A) Anxiety and stress are a natural reaction and indicate that the upcoming exams are significant. We have many people in school who can help students manage and control anxiety or stress. The most important first step is talking and reaching out for help.

Q) My child has university ambitions, will these exams impact their UCAS predicted grades?

A) Most UCAS applications will be submitted before these exams. Some students are waiting to see the outcomes of these exams before sending off their application to UCAS. There will be very tight turnaround time in-between results and 15th January (the UCAS deadline) and so we recommend that any student who intends to wait has as much of their UCAS form filled in as possible)

Q) Will there be exams in 2022?

A) At the moment, OfQual fully expect exams to run for this cohort in the summer of 2022. I have included the most up to date information about these exams in the main body of this letter

Q) When will we know the results of these exams?

A) The results will be released to students as soon as possible in lessons. They will be officially released to you via our monitoring system in term 2.1

Q) I have concerns around a specific subject, what should I do?

A) Contact the Curriculum Leader directly via email. If you would like to discuss an issue further, please contact Mr Constable, Head of Sixth Form