



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you with an update on the next (and final internal) set of exams for year 11. The students have just completed their WAVE2 exams in their core subjects. Where possible, anyone absent for any of the papers will have these rescheduled for them. I am really pleased to be feeding back to you that, for 99.9% of the cohort, their conduct throughout the WAVE2 exams was superb. All the students took their exams very seriously and were professional throughout. They deserve a huge amount of credit and positive feedback. To approach these exams in this way, after everything that has gone on in school sets them up perfectly for the final few weeks.

The final set of exams are going to provide this year group, not only with the opportunity to get an accurate understanding of their current academic position in their non-core (mainly option) subjects, but is also the chance to experience another exam series run under full JCQ regulations. 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.

Date	08:45 start	DURATION	11:30 start	DURATION
Mon 21st Mar	MFL Speaking Tests	All day	MFL Speaking Tests	All day
Tues 22nd Mar	MFL Speaking Tests	All day	MFL Speaking Tests	All day
			Further Maths 1	1 hr 45
Wed 23rd Mar	German Listening	35/45 mins	Computer Science 1	1 hr 30
	German Reading	45/60 mins		
Thur 24th Mar	Business	1 hr 30	Geography 1	1 hr
Fri 25th Mar	French/Spanish Listening	35/45 mins	History 1	55 mins
	French/Spanish Reading	45/60 mins		
Mon 28th Mar	English Literature Yr 11	1 hr 45	PE 1	1 hr
			English Literature Yr10	1 hr 45
			Classical Civilisation	1 hr 30
Tues 29th Mar	Computer Science 2	1 hr 30	DT	1 hr 45
			Spanish Writing	65/80 mins
			French Writing	65/80 mins
			Food	1 hr 45
Wed 30th Mar	Drama	1 hr 45	German Writing	65/ 80 mins
	Creative Media	2 hr		
	RS	1 hr 45		
Thur 31st Mar	Geography Paper 2	1 hr	Further Maths 2	1 hr 45
Fri 1st April	History Paper 2	1 hr 20	PE 2	1 hr

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 Tichband.

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 GCSE 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 GCSE. 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) This is a hard question to answer as it varies based on individual circumstances. Please follow the guidance laid out by each subject area as they set revision tasks on SMHW. If you feel your child is being set too much (or too little), please contact your child's form tutor or head of year.

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. Two 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) 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 3.1

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 Tichband, Head of year.