

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



PSL/MHI

October 2021

Parents of students in Years 10, 11 & 13

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RE: Examinations 2022

Dear Parents

You may be aware that the Government has made an announcement about arrangements for next summer's examinations.

The key changes that have been announced are summarised as follows:

Adaptations

- There will be optional topics and content in GCSE English Literature, History and Geography.
- If necessary, centres will be allowed to deliver practical work in GCSE Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Combined Science by demonstration.
- Centres will be allowed to assess the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) across the minimum number of practical activities required to enable students to demonstrate their competence in A Level Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.
- Students taking GCSE and A Level Art and Design will be assessed on their portfolio only.
- Exam boards will provide advanced information about the focus of the content of examinations for all GCSE and A Level subjects except GCSE English Literature, History and Geography by 7 February 2022 at the latest. This could be released earlier 'if circumstances require'.
- Students will be given a formulae sheet for GCSE Mathematics and a revised equation sheet for GCSE Physics and Combined Science.



Grading

- 2022 will be a 'transition year' to reflect the fact that we are in a pandemic recovery period and students' education has been disrupted.
- Ofqual will, therefore, aim for grades in 2022 to reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019. This means that results overall next year will be higher than in 2019 but not as high as in 2021.
- When predicting grades for UCAS this year, Ofqual recommends that teachers use the 2019 standard as the basis, but that they give borderline students the benefit of any doubt.
- Organisations awarding Vocational Technical Qualifications (VTQs) are expected to take account of the approach for GCSEs and A Levels when setting standards in their own qualifications.
- In 2023, Ofqual aims to return to results that are in line with those in pre-pandemic years.





Results Days

Results for examinations next year will return to their normal format, with A Levels being released on 18 August 2022 and GCSEs on 25 August 2022. Results for VTQs will be issued on or before the same days, and other VTQ results (for example, module results) will continue to be issued throughout the year.

Contingency Plans

- Whilst schools have been asked to plan on the basis that examinations will go ahead as outlined above, the Government has launched a two-week consultation on what contingency arrangements should be put in place if GCSE and A Level examinations cannot go ahead as planned in 2022.
- The Government's proposal is essentially a revised version of the 2021 Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) process, with tighter guidance on the evidence on which TAGs would be based. Specific suggestions include:
 - planned assessment points from which to gather evidence
 - the use, at these assessment points, of approaches which replicate exam board papers and exam conditions
- It is likely that the Government will produce guidance on this process once the consultation is complete and the final approach is agreed.
- Guidance on contingency arrangements for VTQs has already been published. This advises:
 - using TAGs for those VTQs which are most similar to GCSEs, AS and A Levels
 - delaying VTQs awards that require students to demonstrate occupational/professional competence, to ensure that students are able to demonstrate the full set of knowledge and skills required

The full announcement can be found by clicking on the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/adaptations-in-2022-summer-examinationsto-ensure-fairness-for-students>

Please continue to regularly check your ParentMail communications as well as the school's website and twitter account (@FormbyHigh) to keep in touch with important communications related to forthcoming examinations.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Slater
Assistant Headteacher (Achievement, Assessment & Curriculum)