

Thursday 18th November 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am sure that many of you have seen information in the media about arrangements for the GCSE exams in 2022. In recognition of the fact that students' education has been disrupted by the pandemic, a number of measures have been announced to help students prepare for the summer exams:

- Students taking GCSEs in English literature, history, ancient history and geography will not need to cover the usual range of content in the exams- the exam boards have published more details about this and teachers at the Academy will prepare students accordingly.
- In GCSE maths, combined science and physics, students will be given in their exams copies of formulae they would in other years have had to memorise. Again, teachers at the Academy will guide students as to these changes.
- Students taking GCSEs in all other subjects will be given advance information about the focus of the content of the exams to support their revision. This information will be published no later than 7 February 2022. Please be aware that it is unlikely that there will be a dramatic reduction in content so in the meantime students must focus on revising the course as a whole.
- In Art, there will be no GCSE exams - the entire grade will be based upon a student's controlled assessment portfolio.

It has also been also announced that grade boundaries will be set so that more students receive higher grades than before the pandemic, providing a safety net in this transitional year.

The government has repeatedly stated that it is fully committed to ensuring that GCSE exams go ahead as normal in 2022. However, in the unlikely event that they are cancelled, contingency plans have stated that students' grades will be determined by their teachers using a Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) approach similar to that used in 2021. The guidance for this process states that non-exam assessment (NEA), such as performances or controlled assessments should be completed as normal. If exams go ahead as we expect, the NEA will be marked and combined with students' exam marks to generate their grades. If exams are cancelled, teachers will be expected to take a student's NEA into account when determining a TAG.

We have also just been advised that evidence for the TAGs should be produced under exam conditions and that students should be made aware prior to the assessment that the result could be used as evidence when arriving at a TAG.

Consequently, I am writing to let you know that the grades in December mock exams will be used as one of the pieces of evidence when arriving at TAGs should exams be cancelled. In this extremely unlikely event, we will also plan later assessments to ensure that any TAGs are based on a number of pieces of evidence. The guidance has suggested assessing again in the spring term of 2022 and in the first half of the summer

term. While it is unlikely that we would deviate significantly from this, we will communicate the exact dates in good time so as to ensure that students are well prepared.

Please be aware that while we have a professional obligation to outline the TAGs contingency plan, we are fairly certain that GCSE exams will go ahead as planned and firmly believe this is the right thing for students. We are also confident that the year group will continue to make strong progress and will go on to achieve an excellent set of results in the summer. Please do email [david.greene@chelsea-academy.org](mailto:david.greene@chelsea-academy.org) if you have any questions about the information in this letter or if you would like more information as to how you can best support your son or daughter in year 11.

Yours faithfully,



Dr D Greene

Assistant Principal – KS4 and Data