

16 December 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

## **RE: Year 11 January Mock Examinations and Summer 2022 Examination Update**

### Year 11 GCSE Mock Examinations – January 2022

Please find enclosed a copy of the Year 11 GCSE mock examinations timetable for January. Mock examinations will take place between Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Examinations are scheduled for morning and afternoon sittings to reflect the summer examinations; students will attend school at the normal time each day and will follow their usual timetable when not completing a mock examination.

Students will sit past exam papers under exam conditions, subject teachers will provide students with subject-specific guidance on revision resources prior to the end of the term. If you would like any additional support for guidance or information regarding the mock exams, please do get in touch with school and we can arrange for the relevant staff member to contact you directly.

### GCSE Examinations 2022 – Update

The government is clear that students entering GCSEs in 2022 should expect to take exams in the summer. In recognition of the fact that students' education has been disrupted by the pandemic, they will be given extra help to prepare for their exams:

- students taking GCSEs in English literature and geography will not need to cover the usual range of content in the exams
- students taking GCSEs in all other subjects will be given advance information about the focus of the content of the exams to help them focus their revision
- students taking GCSEs in mathematics will be given in their exams copies of formulae they would in other years have to memorise
- students taking GCSE combined science will be given in their exams a sheet covering all the equations they might need to apply in the exams

The advance information for GCSE exams will be published no later than 7 February 2022. As soon as we receive advance information, we will communicate this to students and parents. We will then work with year 11 to tailor their subsequent curriculum delivery and revision guidance to prepare for the summer examination series.

## Contingency Planning

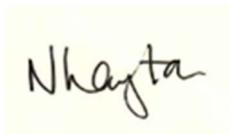
The government has stated that it is firmly committed to exams going ahead in summer 2022. Nevertheless, we are required to have contingency plans in place for the unlikely event that exams have to be cancelled again because of the pandemic.

If exams have to be cancelled in summer 2022, students' grades will instead be determined by their teachers, using a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) approach similar to that used in summer 2021. TAGs are based on teachers' assessment of their students' work.

The mock examinations due to take place in January will form an important part of our TAG assessment if required, in addition to evidence drawn from classwork and other assessments taken in class throughout the year.

Once again, thank you for your continued support, if you have any questions relating to your child's curriculum or examination preparation, please do get in touch.

Yours faithfully,



Nicola Laughton  
Assistant Headteacher – Quality of Education

***NB: All visitors to Penkford School will be expected to produce up to date photographic ID***