

1<sup>st</sup> December 2021

### National Examination Contingency Arrangements

Dear Parent/Carer,

The government is firmly committed to GCSE, AS and A level exams going ahead in England in academic year 2021 to 2022, with adaptations to take account of the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on the education of the students due to sit those exams. However, if there is one thing we have learned from this pandemic, it is that nothing is ever certain and therefore the Department for Education (DfE) and Ofqual (Examinations regulator) have provided some contingency guidance for schools in case examinations can't go ahead as planned. The detail of the guidance can be found [here](#) but I have provided a brief summary below. There are two scenarios:

#### **Scenario 1: Examinations go ahead as planned with some mitigations**

- students taking GCSEs in English literature, history and geography will not need to cover the usual range of content in the exams – the exam boards have published information on their websites on how this will work for each of their specifications in these subjects. 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 will be released by the DfE in February 2022.
- students taking A levels will be given advance information about the focus of the content of the exams to support their revision. This will be released by the DfE in February 2022.
- students taking GCSE mathematics will be given, in their exam papers, copies of formulae they would in other years have to memorise
- students taking GCSE physics and combined science will be given in their exams a sheet covering all the equations they might need to apply in the exams

#### **Scenario 2: National Examinations cancelled for all students**

This decision will be taken at a National level and will affect all students, i.e. this will not be done on a regional, local or school level. Should National Examinations be cancelled students will be assessed in a very similar way to how they were assessed in the summer of 2021 using Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). Teachers will be instructed to use evidence from assessments undertaken under formal examination conditions to assess the level which students have attained. **At TBSHS we will be using the evidence from the mock examinations as part of this evidence base.** There will also be assessment points later in the academic year which will add to the evidence base. Students and parents will be informed of these as soon as is practicable. The director of Ofqual, Jo Saxton, has written an open letter to students explaining the arrangements which can be found [here](#).

Let me conclude by reiterating that the government's position is that National examinations should go ahead if at all possible and therefore students should view their mocks as an important opportunity to test themselves and see what they can do and what they need to improve before their exams in the Summer. I wish them all the best of luck.

Can I remind parents that if exams go ahead as normal you should not book any holidays until after **Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June**.

Yours sincerely,

G. Gunn  
Deputy Headteacher



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