

Tapton SCHOOL

Headteacher: Ms Kathryn Rhodes

Tapton School Academy Trust, Darwin Lane, Sheffield, S10 5RG Tel: 0114 267 1414
Email: enquiries@taptonschool.co.uk Web: www.taptonschool.co.uk Twitter: @TaptonSchool1

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GCSE, AS and A Level Examinations 2022

Dear students, parents and carers,

You may be aware that Ofqual, the regulatory body for qualifications and exams have been consulting with students, schools and examination boards to ensure there are robust processes in place for awarding examination results in 2022. The results of the consultation on contingency measures was released on Thursday 11th November.

It is the government's intention that full examinations at GCSE, AS and A Level will take place next year. Examination boards have released provisional examination timetables with a start date of Monday 16th May 2022. Nevertheless, there are a number of adaptations to examinations that we are now aware of and a contingency plan should the course of the pandemic necessitate the cancellation of exams.

Attached to this letter is an open letter to all students and families from Dr Jo Saxton, Chief Regulator of Ofqual. The letter from Ofqual will explain to you the decisions that have been made around examination arrangements and grading and provide links to further information. In addition to this, please find below a summary of the changes that are already in place and details about the potential contingency arrangements should the need arise.

- Students taking GCSEs in English Literature, History and Geography will not need to cover the usual range of content in the exams. Subject teachers have communicated these changes to students.
- Students taking GCSE, AS and A level Art and Design will be assessed on their portfolio only.
- Students taking GCSEs in all other subjects (not English Literature, History or Geography) will be given advance information about the focus of the content of the exams to help them to focus their revision.
- Students taking AS and A levels will be given advance information about the focus of the content of the exams to help them to focus their revision.
- The advance information for GCSE, AS and A levels will be published no later than 7th February 2022. The government retains the flexibility for advance information to be deployed at other points ahead of 7th February if circumstances require. The government will take account of the level of disruption to students' education being caused by the pandemic if and when it decides that advance information should be published earlier, and will give at least a week's notice of publication.
- 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 Physics and GCSE Combined Science will be given a sheet in their exams covering all the equations that they might need to apply to their work.
- If exams had to be cancelled in summer 2022, students' grades would instead be determined by their teachers, using a Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) approach similar to that used in summer 2021. TAGs are based on teachers' assessment of their students' work.



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At Tipton we will ensure that students are fully prepared for final examinations and not over-burdened with unnecessary testing. As per the school calendar Year 11 and Year 13 will sit trial examinations in February next year. These trial examinations are an integral part of our preparation for final papers and are instrumental to teaching and learning. These papers will also form part of our evidence collection for Teacher Assessed Grades without burdening students with additional assessments. As the guidance from Ofqual is being processed by examination boards and teacher associations we will of course keep you updated with any relevant developments, however, rest assured that our priority will always be to ensure our students are able to fully achieve their potential without distraction or disadvantage.

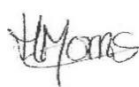
Yours sincerely



Harkiran Grewal
Deputy Headteacher



Andrew Wright
Assistant Headteacher



Holly Morris
Assistant Headteacher



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