

19 October 2022

Information update for students, parents and carers on exams in Summer 2023

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I am writing further to announcements by the government, the exams regulator Ofqual and the exam boards about exams in summer 2023. I hope to clarify what this means for students preparing for GCSEs, A levels and Vocational and Technical Qualifications this year.

The government, the exams regulator Ofqual and the exam boards have confirmed the following:

- At a national level, grades will be in line with grades in 2019. This is after a one-year transition year when exams resumed in 2022. This was needed following grade increases in summer 2020-2021, when teachers and schools awarded grades.
- There will be a safety net to ensure that, nationally, grades are not lower than they were in 2019.
- This means that, generally speaking, students have the same chance of getting a grade A* or C at A level, or a grade 9 or 5 at GCSE, as in 2019.
- Vocational and technical qualifications will also return to a 2019 grade profile.
- Formula sheets will be provided in the GCSE maths, physics and combined sciences exams, meaning that students will not need to memorise these formulae or equations - this was not the case in 2019.
- Advanced information about where to focus revision, which was provided in 2022, will **not** be provided this year. Students will need to learn and revise the whole specification as normal. Any topic could come up in the exam.
- If a student has studied the whole course but is ill during the exam period they may be able to receive a grade by sitting one paper in the qualification rather than the previous rule of 25% of the assessment, although certification of illness will be needed.
- The exam timetable means that in most qualifications, there is at least a week between the first and last exam paper to ensure that if students are ill for one paper, they are able to sit another.

I trust that this provides you with some clarity on the latest information available to schools. I will be in contact should we receive any more information. Please consult the Frequently Asked Questions document on our website or let me know if you have any further questions.

We all wish all of our students the best of luck over the coming year, and hope they continue to work hard.

Yours faithfully,



Aja Cortizo
Deputy Headteacher