

Corporate Services
Head Office
Bell Barn Road
Birmingham
B15 2AF
Tel: 0121 666 6409

2nd December 2021

RE: Public Examinations Summer 2022

Dear parent/carer

We know that you might be concerned at the thought of your child taking exams next year after the disruption they have experienced. That is why The Department for Education have put in place changes to exams and assessments to make them as fair as possible during the pandemic. This means that they can concentrate on what really matters– studying and revising as they prepare to get the best results they can.

The changes include advance information, designed to give young people some help for revision ahead of summer exams. It will be published no later than 7 February, and we will let pupils know when this is available.

If you want to know more about these changes teachers will be able to explain what this will mean for each subject; we have a Year 11 exam results evening on Tuesday 18th January 2022 (3.30 – 5.00). You can also find [more information on the 2022 changes to exams](#) and [changes to non-exam assessments](#) on our [website](#).

Grading

When grading exams in 2022, Ofqual will aim for a grading standard that reflects a midway point between 2021 and 2019. This means that exam boards will set the grade boundaries so that more pupils get higher grades in 2022 than before the pandemic. This will provide a safety net for those pupils who might otherwise just miss out on a higher grade. They have taken this decision to reflect the disruption that young people have experienced.

Grading is monitored by the experts every step of the way, and as usual, we and they will review results for each subject before pupils get them. With these changes and checks they will ensure fairness and high-quality qualifications that will be recognised and valued: qualifications that employers, colleges and universities trust.

Though Ofqual expect exams to go ahead as planned, if the 2022 exams cannot go ahead due to further Covid disruption, pupils grades will instead be determined by their teachers, using a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) approach. [They have published our decisions about this approach following a public consultation](#), which included pupils. This means that teachers will gather evidence, through assessments, to help them determine Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) if exams do not take place.

For many young people this year will be the first experience of formal exams. We don't want to add to their workload, which is why any additional assessments should help prepare them for exams, and not create a distraction.

Arrangements for Vocational and Technical Qualifications (VTQs)

They also expect exams and assessments to take place for VTQs in the 2021 to 2022 academic year. Vocational and Technical Qualifications include those such as BTECs, OCR Cambridge Technicals & Functional Skills. As there is such a wide range of different vocational and technical qualifications, it isn't possible to have just one approach for them all.

We have confirmed arrangements for the assessment and awarding of VTQs and other general qualifications, which take account of the disruption that pupils may have experienced.

If you're not sure what the arrangements are for the particular qualification that your child is studying, please don't hesitate to contact us or ask at the Year 11 exam results evening on Tuesday 18th January 2022 (3.30 – 5.00).

Additional information

If you have any questions, you should speak to your child's teachers who will be able to support you. You, or your child, might also find it helpful to [sign up for updates on the Ofqual website](#) or by following [their Instagram channel @Ofqual](#).

Have a good holiday and we wish your child every luck in their mock exams next week!

Yours faithfully

Kevin Biggs

Assistant Principal