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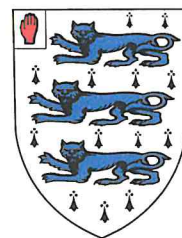
THE THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL, WEM

incorporating

THOMAS ADAMS SIXTH FORM ADAMS HOUSE (BOARDING)

Headteacher: Mark Cooper BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteachers: Jenni Whitfield BA (Joint Hons), Tom McAleavy BA (Hons)



Dear Parents / Carers,

Year 11 & 13 Examinations Update

We feel that it is important to keep you updated on the current guidance issued by the Department for Education and Ofqual (exam board regulator) with reference to the GCSE and A-Level Examinations for 2022.

Guidance was issued (November 11) outlining the modifications to the examinations for 2022. These include:-

- There will be optional topics and content in GCSE English literature, history, ancient history and geography.
- Exam boards will provide advanced information about the focus of the content for all GCSE, AS and A level subjects except GCSE English literature, history, ancient history and geography by **7 February 2022** at the latest. This could be released earlier 'if circumstances require'.
- Students will be given a formulae sheet for GCSE mathematics and a revised equation sheet for GCSE physics and combined science.

For a full breakdown of the decisions made, please go to the following link

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1021743/6834_Decisions_for_proposed_changes_to_the_assessment_of_GCSEs_AS_and_A_levels_in_2022.pdf

Also released was the Examination Contingency Plan that outlined the course of action to be taken in the event of the examinations being cancelled in 2022.

GCSE examinations are still planned to go ahead but, if they are unable to do so, schools will be asked to award Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs), as we did for the previous cohort (2021). To ensure we are able to justify any TAGs we award, we will need to have an evidence base to support our decisions and have therefore been asked to ensure we have robust assessment data for every student. Any assessments we conduct will be focused on the GCSE courses students are following and will not detract from their preparation for GCSEs; in fact, they should support students in preparation for their examinations.

We have reinforced to students that all assessments, including the Mock Exams, will be used as evidence for teacher assessed grades if the situation arises.

The link below will take you to an open letter from the lead regulator at Ofqual that highlights the action required if the contingency is enforced: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-letters-arrangements-for-gcse-as-and-a-levels-in-2022/letter-to-students>

At present, with the formal examination opportunities that we have in place for both Year 11 and 13 aligned with the subject specific assessments, we feel a fair picture based upon robust evidence can be produced for each student. We will, however, review this position in the event of further guidance being issued.

We will continue to support our young people and provide them with the support and guidance required to meet the challenges ahead. We also aim to keep you informed of any further developments as the academic year progresses.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Cooper
Headteacher



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