



Our Ref: LTM/kmd/examupdate

7 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Government Announcements : Exceptional measures to support students sitting exams in summer

Following your child's recent return to school after their period of isolation, I write to thank you for the support given at home to ensure a confident start to the mock examination session. Students have been assured in what they have needed to achieve at home and been extremely focused on what has been asked from them.

You will be aware that last week the Government made announcements regarding the Summer examinations; students sitting exams and other assessments next year will benefit from a package of exceptional measures to make them as fair as possible and manage the disruption caused by the COVID-19 outbreak.

In recognition of the challenges faced by students this year the following measures are proposed:

- more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged
- students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A'levels to focus revision
- exam aids - like formula sheets - provided in some exams, giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise
- additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation
- a new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

The Government has been clear that exams are the fairest way to judge a student's performance and has made keeping schools and colleges open a national priority throughout the pandemic in order to minimise disruption to education.

The measures recognise that, while teachers have gone above and beyond to support their pupils during a difficult period, some young people have had their teaching disrupted more than others and will need extra support to catch up on the curriculum and achieve their potential in exams.

From speaking to students in school, these announcements are welcomed news and now mean that we know what the future will look like in relation final examinations. There will be more detail to follow, but I know that students feel an even greater sense of purpose regarding what they need to achieve in the months ahead; we are fully prepared to continue to support them on their journey.

Continued/...
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The Government have provided two documents we have been asked to share with you. The first is a letter from The Secretary of State who has written to all students taking exams this year to explain these changes, show why they are necessary and help them understand how they will be impacted:

<http://www.oldburywells.com/media/24294/letter-to-all-students-taking-exams-1.pdf>

The second is a Question and Answers document for parents/carers based on the information we know at this stage:

<http://www.oldburywells.com/media/24293/exams-2021-ga-for-parents-2.pdf>

I wish your child continued success within their studies and look forward to supporting them through to the end of this important year!

Many Thanks
Yours faithfully



Lee Tristham
Headteacher