



17 November 2021

Rachel Hutchinson
Principal

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Examination Contingency Arrangements

Further to my previous letter, dated 21 October, Ofqual have now published their Contingency Arrangements which will be used in the event that examinations are cancelled in 2022.

It is important to stress that at the current time, the intention of the government is that examinations will take place as planned; however, it is vital that contingency plans are in place early should this need to be reviewed and changed in light of any further disruption to learning this academic year. As outlined in the Contingency Arrangements, if examinations 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.

In my previous letter, I wrote:

'It is important to point out that at the current time, the government intends for the summer examinations to take place as planned. In the event that examinations are cancelled and grades are determined via teacher assessment, then it is likely that student performance in upcoming November mock examinations *could* form part of the evidence used; however, should this be necessary, the particular context and conditions of these assessments would be taken into account.'

It has now been confirmed by the government that schools and Colleges should plan assessment opportunities in order to secure evidence which could be used to inform TAGs if necessary, and this includes during the autumn term. As suggested by Ofqual, we plan to assess students in each of the:

- second half of the autumn term 2021
- spring term of 2022
- first half of the summer term 2022

For Year 13, autumn term mock examinations have just been completed, and for Year 11, these will begin next week. Year 13 already have a second series of mocks scheduled for January, and Year 11 in March. In addition to these plans, a third formal in-class assessment window will be confirmed.

Early assessment(s) will mean that if the pandemic disrupts education later in the academic year, such that it is not possible for teachers to assess students further, there will be some evidence on which TAGs can be based if examinations are cancelled. If it is possible to continue to assess students later in the academic year, there will be more recent evidence available to inform TAGs should they become necessary.

We would like to reassure all students and their parents/carers that at the College, we will continue to do all we can to ensure that our students are supported to achieve their very best in their qualifications this year. If student performance in mock examinations and formal tests is required to inform TAGs, then the context and conditions of these assessments will be taken into account.

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Should you wish to read the full Contingency Arrangements, the government publications can be found [here](#).

Should any further guidance be released, we will update you as soon as we can.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this information and arrangements, please do not hesitate to contact your child's College Director, Mrs Warne for Year 11 or Ms Martin for Year 13. All of the staff at the College are committed to supporting our students to achieve their very best grades in their qualifications this summer. Please continue to keep in touch with the College and update us of any circumstances which may be impacting upon your child so that we can ensure that they are supported accordingly.

Yours faithfully

Heather Lilley
Deputy Principal