

12 January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

### Year 11 Examinations 2022

I am writing to confirm that the government is clear that students entering GCSEs or Vocational and Technical Qualifications e.g. BTECs in 2022 should expect to take exams in the summer and complete any non-exam assessments in the usual way throughout the year. There are currently no plans to use Teacher Assessed Grades or similar, as had been the case for the past two years.

However, in recognition of the fact that students' education has been disrupted by the pandemic, there have been some allowances made for particular subjects. The greatest allowances are shown below, although more detail can be found in the government guidance document: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-contingency-arrangements-for-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-summer-2022>

- students taking GCSEs in English literature, history and geography will not need to cover the usual range of content in the exams. The exam boards have published information on their websites on how this will work for each of their specifications in these subjects and our staff have planned their teaching for Fairfield students accordingly.
- students taking GCSEs in all other subjects will be given advance information no later than 7 February 2022 about the focus of the content of the exams to support their preparation and revision and our staff have planned for this.
- students taking GCSE mathematics will be given in their exams copies of formulae they would in other years have to memorise
- students taking GCSE physics and combined science will be given in their exams a sheet covering all the equations they might need to apply in the exams.

Teaching staff have been aware of all allowances that affect their subject since September and have been preparing students for their exams in accordance with them. If you have any specific subject concerns, please contact your child's teacher via admin [admin@gvsc.org.uk](mailto:admin@gvsc.org.uk)

### Grading of exams

To reflect the disruption that the Year 11 cohort has experienced already in their courses, when grading exams in 2022, the government has pledged to 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 students get higher grades in 2022 than before the pandemic, ostensibly providing a 'safety net' for those students who might otherwise just miss out on a higher grade, in order that their post -16 choices are not restricted.

## Contingency arrangements

However, if the course of the pandemic should shift and the 2022 exams could not go ahead due to further Covid disruption, the students' grades would instead necessarily be determined by teachers, using the Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) approach, as last year. This means that staff will continue to gather evidence, through assessments and mock exams, to help them determine TAGs if exams do not take place. Staff have been working on this approach since the start of the school year and students should continue to work hard and prepare well for any assessments throughout their final few months to produce the best evidence possible, if it should be needed.

I hope that this clarifies the situation with exams for 2022; in short, we are expecting our students to sit the exams but are preparing for the possibility of them not being able to as well! Please contact me directly if you have any questions not covered here or in the government publication: [jconway@gvsc.org.uk](mailto:jconway@gvsc.org.uk)

Yours faithfully



Jayne Conway  
Deputy Head