



The Priory School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

You will probably be aware that the Department for Education recently announced some changes to the way in which GCSE examinations will run and be assessed for your child. I am writing to you to draw your attention to a few of the announcements, particularly relating to the timing of the exams.

Most exams have been moved later than normal in the academic year and the exam period will be longer as a result of these shifts. Students will sit English Language Paper 1 on 26th May and Maths Paper 1 on 27th May – these will be the first written examinations. The last exams will be on Friday 2nd July but there will be an additional set of contingency exams, which students will be able to sit if they miss all of the exams for a particular subject due to Covid-19. The timetable for these exams is currently being drawn up but will run from 28th June to 16th July. Please could you refrain from booking any holidays until after 16th July in case students need to sit any contingency papers.

GCSE results will be later than normal; students will receive their exam results on Friday 27th August and we will write to you nearer the time regarding the process for collecting results.

It has also been announced that Ofqual will ensure that grading of the GCSE examinations will carry forward the overall generosity of grading in 2020, although they will aim to spread the generosity of the 2020 results between subjects more evenly. Students will also be provided with advance notice of some topic areas in the Spring term, as well as supportive materials such as formulae sheets on the day of the exam. We will communicate further information as we receive it.

Finally, there will be no performance tables in 2021 but information such as attendance data and how well schools support students to their next destination will be made public.

If you wish to read the guidance in full it can be found via the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-support-the-summer-2021-exams/guidance-to-support-the-summer-2021-exams>

Please contact me if you have any questions relating to these updates.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Knight,
Deputy Headteacher