



The Priory School

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Dear Parents and carers,

19th January 2022

- **Year 11 assessment period 14th-27th March**
- **Final date of GCSE examinations 28th June**

I am writing to you with reference to the GCSE examinations and our contingency plans should the summer series be cancelled. The Government's current stance is that GCSE and A Level examinations will go ahead as planned in the Summer term, but they have also put contingency plans in place, including schools ensuring they have substantial evidence of students' performance should a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) be required.

As you are aware from my previous letter, we informed students that the mock examinations in the Autumn term would be the first of three assessment points which could contribute to a TAG, with a further assessment point in the Spring term and a final assessment point in the Summer, should examinations be cancelled. Following consultation with students and staff, we will be holding a second assessment point next half term, from 14th to 27th March. Students' preference was for these assessments to be held formally, in the hall, as with the mock examinations. They requested that they were more spread out and we have therefore extended the next assessment period to two full weeks. Some subjects, which have an element of Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) or a practical examination (such as Drama), will **not** be setting a written examination and some other subjects will set fewer or shorter papers, meaning there will be fewer examinations to prepare for, over a longer period. A timetable will be issued to students before the end of half term and you will also find attached to this email a copy of the current intervention sessions available to Year 11 students. This will be continually updated and added to.

We continue to be mindful of the need for a balance for students so that they do not feel under continuous pressure, which is why the second assessment period has been planned as described above. These assessments would typically have taken place in lessons as preparation for the Summer examinations regardless of the contingency plans, it is the formalisation of this process that is different for students.

Some of you have contacted the school about when the last day of examinations will be and we can now confirm that the final day (a contingency day) will be **Wednesday 29th June 2022**. The designation of a 'contingency day' within the common examination timetable is in the event of national or significant local disruption to examinations in the United Kingdom. It is part of the awarding bodies' standard contingency planning for examinations and we are asked by exam boards to ensure that all candidates remain available until Wednesday 29 June 2022 should an awarding body need to invoke its contingency plan.

Thank you again for your continued support of your child and the school; we appreciate the very turbulent time this cohort has endured and how remarkably they are doing in spite of it.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs C Knight
Deputy Headteacher