

Re: Secretary of State Announcements on Summer Assessment 2021

25/2/2021

Dear Student, Parents and Carers,

Today, the Secretary of State for Education made further announcements following the consultation on Summer 2021 assessment arrangements. These broadly confirmed the intention of Government to adopt most of the proposals within the original consultation. In the absence of examinations this year, we broadly welcome the emphasis placed on professional assessments by teachers of performance, based on past work covered and assessed along with the use of future internal assessments or testing in the time that remains. We also welcome that this will be supported by the awarding bodies, who will have responsibilities for verification and assurance of processes and the evidence teachers will use in reaching their conclusions. We will now need to await the detailed guidance that is expected to follow from OfQual and relevant awarding bodies.


As anticipated, this will mean some further internal testing and assessment in the period from March to June 2021 and it is helpful that the announcement has provided scope for that. This will give students the best opportunities to show what they can do before the conclusion of courses and for teachers to use alongside the range of assessments already completed. You will be aware that we deferred mocks as a result of the January lockdown, and to ensure that we gave everyone the best opportunity to be prepared and ready for these, or their equivalent, where these are appropriate in due course. We will take stock of guidance on those matters before making decisions about the nature and timing of any future assessments and in the meantime, your initial priority is returning to learning onsite, to make the best of the teaching time available.

It is helpful and also welcome that the Secretary of State has provided clarification in relation to the main results distribution dates. These have been confirmed as **Tuesday 10th August** for the main A Levels/Level 3 qualifications, and **Thursday 12th August** for GCSE and other qualifications.

We all understand the anxieties that the period of continuing national uncertainty has created for students, their parents/carers and education staff. Please understand that I, and each of your teachers, will be unable to provide more specific details at this stage, until we receive the formal awarding body guidance in due course. However, please be assured that the College and your teachers have been expecting, considering and preparing for this type of scenario. We are therefore confident that we are as well placed as possible to support our students, as well as to ensure that this is a positive and fair process for everyone involved.

I look forward to welcoming you back to campus shortly and in the meantime, stay positive and take care.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Wilson
Principal