



Kingswinford Academy

A part of Windsor Academy Trust

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Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 Assessment Update

I would like to draw your attention to the following information which relates to the government's approach to the awarding of GCSE and vocational qualifications in 2022, as well as their contingency planning if exams were to be cancelled.

For the last two academic years students have largely not sat external examinations in order to determine their grades, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Grades have instead been awarded by schools based on assessments students had completed throughout the course of study. Ofqual, the regulatory body for awarding organisations, published an article on their approach to grading and assessments in 2022 which can be found [here](#). Essentially, it outlines that the Department for Education is planning for exams to take place in 2022 in as close to normal circumstances as possible.

There have been some adaptations made to some qualifications already in order to mitigate some of the disruption that has been experienced by students as a result of the pandemic, the details of which can be found [here](#). These measures are intended to support students with their preparation for assessments such as providing advance information about the focus of the content of exams and providing additional materials in the exam in the form of formulae sheets, where relevant.

The Department for Education has also consulted on contingency arrangements that can be put in place should exams be unable to take place in 2022 as expected. This is likely to be a very similar process as the one used for awarding Teacher Assessed Grades in 2021 and as a school we are ensuring that key assessments will be carried out in a way that would meet the criteria likely to be needed for assessments to be used as evidence towards such a grade.



Mock examinations

Year 11 students will undertake mock examinations in most of their subjects between Monday 1st November and Friday 12th November. They have been given information about preparing for these assessments in tutor time, lessons and via Google Classrooms to support their revision and help them to achieve the best possible outcomes.

Some qualifications which feature non-exam assessment will not have mock examinations at these times as students are assessed via the tasks they complete throughout the programme of study. These tend to be vocational qualifications such as BTECs and Cambridge Nationals. In addition, Art, Photography and Textiles have had their exam component removed, as part of the national adjustments to exams for this academic year. Grades in these subjects will be solely based on student portfolios.

It is imperative that students prepare as thoroughly as possible for these key assessments as they would be used as part of the evidence towards a Teacher Assessed Grade in the event of exams being cancelled in 2022. This is because these assessments mirror exam conditions most closely and will undergo robust standardisation and moderation.

Revision sessions will continue after school throughout the mock exam period to support students and resources will be added to Google classrooms to help with preparation. After completion of the mock examinations, there will be a period of moderation and quality assurance before grades are released to students. You will then receive a report containing updated projections, informed by these assessments, just before the Christmas break.

On **Wednesday 12th January** we will be holding our **Y11 Teacher/Parents' Evening** where teachers will be available to discuss performance in the mock exams and the programme of study for the rest of the year. Booking information will be sent to you closer to the event.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Jones
Deputy Headteacher