



# Kingswinford Academy

**A part of Windsor Academy Trust**

Headteacher: Mr T Macdonald, BA Hons, MA

Water Street  
Kingswinford  
West Midlands  
DY6 7AD

Tel: 01384 296596

Email:  
info@kingswinford.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

Website:  
www.kingswinford.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

Twitter: @kfordacademy

Company registration no: 07523436  
Place of registration: England

Our Ref: AJ/rw  
KFA Exams/Y11 UpdateFeb22

Monday 14th February

Dear Parent/Carer

## Year 11 Exam Update

I am writing to give you an update on the arrangements for assessing GCSE and vocational qualifications this year, as the DfE released more information last week on how they intend to support students in the summer. The government's intention is that exams will take place during the summer, with adjustments to take account of the pandemic. As such, our focus has been on ensuring students are prepared as thoroughly as possible for the summer exams. This includes providing opportunities to practise exam technique and identify areas of learning that need further work, firstly in the mock exams that took place in November and through the upcoming set of mock exams due to take place after half term, between **28th February** and **11th March**. A copy of the mock exam timetable is attached to this email for your reference.

It is important that students understand that, in the unlikely event that exams should be cancelled, these upcoming assessments would be used to contribute towards the grade students are awarded. Because of this, and because it will help them prepare for exams in the summer, it is extremely important that students prepare as thoroughly as possible for these assessments. There is a contingency plan in place in the event of cancellation of exams which would be similar to the Teacher Assessed Grades process that was used last year, but currently there is no indication that this will be used.

## Support for Exams in 2022

The government carried out a consultation last year to help determine the course of action for qualifications this year in terms of providing support to mitigate any disruption caused by the pandemic. The outcome of this consultation can be found [here](#) and these are the key recommendations relating to exams:

1. There will be less content or fewer topics in GCSE English literature, history, ancient history and geography.
2. Students taking GCSE Art, Photography and Textiles will be assessed on their portfolio only.
3. Exam boards will provide advanced information about the focus of the content of the exams for all GCSE subjects (except GCSE English literature, history, ancient history and geography) for the summer 2022 exams.



4. The policy intention of providing advance information is that it will support students' revision. This will enable teachers to plan to adapt their teaching in the second half of the spring term if necessary.
5. Students will be given a formulae sheet for GCSE mathematics in summer 2022. Exam boards will provide copies of the formulae sheet for use in teaching and to ensure that students are familiar with it prior to the exams. Clean copies of the formulae sheet will be provided in the exams.
6. Students will be given a revised equation sheet for GCSE physics and combined science in summer 2022, covering all the equations required in the subject content. Exam boards will provide copies of the equation sheet for use in teaching and to ensure that students are familiar with it prior to the exams. Clean copies of the equation sheet will be provided in the exams.
7. Exams will be graded more generously in 2022 than the last time exams took place in 2019, providing a safety net for students.

These adjustments, along with changes to non-exam assessment and fieldwork, are designed to mitigate the impacts of the disruption that students have faced during the pandemic without undermining the value of their qualifications and their ability to progress successfully to further study.

Point 3 above outlines advance information that will be used to support students' revision. This means that students will be able to focus their revision on topics that will be outlined for each exam and should allow them to demonstrate their knowledge, skills and understanding. Over the coming weeks, this information will be shared with students in lessons and will also be placed on the Revision Google Classroom for ease of reference for all students. Further information about this support can be found on the Department For Education's website [here](#); there are also links to the Exam Board websites containing all of this advance information.

Please note that advanced information might vary between subjects because of how they are structured and assessed, but as far as possible the exam boards have made sure the approaches within a subject are the same.

It is important that students recognise that the support measures are in place to help them and ensure their grades reflect their level of achievement; it will not mean that exams are easy or that they are guaranteed to get good grades. Students will need to continue to work hard and revise thoroughly for exams in order to get any benefit from the support available.

Yours faithfully

Mr A Jones  
Deputy Headteacher