

10 August 2020

Dear Student

Ofqual Letter for Year 10 and Year 12 Students

We hope you are enjoying your summer break, we are busy preparing for your full return in September and are all looking forward to welcoming you back through the gates in just over 3 weeks, but before we do, I wanted to provide you with an update regarding your qualifications. You may have read in the media that Ofqual has recently published its decisions following its consultation on the 2021 summer A Levels and GCSEs examinations.

The summary and full documentation can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/exams-and-assessments-in-2021> (their summary) and
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcse-as-and-a-levels-in-2021> (full publications).

With the aim of reducing pressure on students and allowing for the creation of more teaching time, Ofqual has stated that there will be **no changes to the length, format or number of examination papers** except for specific subjects (see overleaf). Please note – if a subject is not on the list it means that there is no change for next year. Teachers will go through all the subject-specific details with students in September to ensure that they are absolutely clear where changes impact them.

There are, however, some issues that have yet to be clarified:

- Ofqual has started a consultation relating to **vocational and technical qualifications** which will close on 14 August.
- You may have heard about the possibility of holding the 2021 examinations later than usual: Ofqual has not yet confirmed **when the 2021 summer examinations will take place**. Please, therefore, take this into account when making any arrangements for July 2021 as they may clash with public examinations.
- Ofqual refers to potential additional measures to respond to further restrictions and/or lockdowns and so, we will all need to be prepared to adapt in the event that the landscape changes.

Please rest assured that we are confident that the remote and in school learning provided last year has given students every opportunity to progress through their courses ready for returning this year. They should, therefore, feel confident that they can achieve their target grades.

Staff have already been adapting provision for this year to include more recall and review of work covered during lockdown, based on their assessment of which knowledge and skills may need further development. Furthermore, the resources from last year all remain on Google Classroom for students to access as they wish.

We wish you all the best for the remainder of the break and look forward to seeing the students back in September.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gibson
Headteacher

SUMMARY OF EXAM/SUBJECT CHANGES

GCSE

GCSE subject	Decision
Art and design	Assessment by portfolio only.
Sciences: separate and combined	Permit observation of demonstrations and/or simulations to cover required apparatus and techniques.
Computer science	Permit programming project to be undertaken in unsupervised time.
Dance	<p>Performance Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student to perform 1 or more dances with a combined duration of at least 1.5 minutes (if all solo) or 2 minutes (if includes group performance) but no requirement for students to perform as part of a group. • Requirement to submit complete an unedited audio-visual recording of the performed dances from the perspective of the audience. <p>Choreography Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student to choreograph either a complete solo dance of at least 1.5 minutes or a complete group dance of at least 2 minutes, in response to an exam board set brief. • There is no requirement for the student to perform the choreographed dance or any physical demonstration of key motifs. <p>Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements.</p>
Design and technology	<p>Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements regarding mock-ups / prototypes..</p> <p>Permit demonstration of using machinery/tools/processes.</p>
Drama	<p>Permit live performance statement to be satisfied through streamed or recorded performances.</p> <p>Devised Performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student to participate as either a performer or designer in a devised performance of at least 1.5 minutes (for monologue), and/or 2 minutes (for duologue or group). • Permit exam boards to accept alternative evidence to illustrate the intended final piece, the student's contribution to the creation and development of ideas, and their analysis and evaluation of their own work, as appropriate to the task. <p>Text Based Performance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student to participate as either a performer or designer in a text based performance of at least 1.5 minutes (for monologue), and/or 2 minutes (for duologue or group). • Require students to evidence their application of theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions, contribution to the creation and development of ideas, and analysis and evaluation of their own work, as appropriate to the task. <p>Both NEA components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit participation in a monologue for both the Devised Performance and Text Based Performance. <p>Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements.</p>

English language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spoken language assessment permitted to take place before a single teacher who can represent an 'audience'. Spoken language assessment may be conducted by the teacher at any time during the course and by virtual means. No requirement for teachers to submit sample of audio-visual recordings of spoken language assessment for exam board monitoring.
English literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum common core (play by Shakespeare) for all students. Centre level content choices for students to answer questions on 2 of the 3 remaining content areas: poetry; 19th century novel; fiction/drama from British Isles from 1914.
Food preparation and nutrition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove NEA1 and permit an earlier release of NEA2. Reduce the requirements for NEA2 to 2 dishes to be completed within 3 hours to allow for students to use complex processes.
Geography	<p>Remove requirements for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written statement that centres have given students the opportunity to undertake 2 days of fieldwork and students to answer questions in the exam relating to their own fieldwork experience.
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit choice of content topics beyond a core identified for each specification that all students will be assessed on, giving centres a choice over the content that must be taught.
Media studies	<p>Permit exam boards to accept a prototype or mock-up, with supporting evidence as necessary, of an individual media production (single product) in response to an exam board set brief.</p> <p>Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements.</p>
Modern foreign languages	<p>Remove requirement for assessments to use words outside of vocabulary lists whilst maintaining level of knowledge and accuracy needed for the highest grades.</p> <p>Spoken language assessment will be "an endorsement" reported on a 3-point scale (pass, merit and distinction) to be assessed by teachers during the course of study.</p>
Music	<p>Performance Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require students to perform 1 or more pieces of music with a combined duration of at least 1.5 minutes (if all solo performance) or 2 minutes (if including performance as part of an ensemble). No requirement to perform as part of an ensemble. Requirement to submit complete and unedited recording of the live performance and, where available, the score or lead sheet for that performance. <p>Composition Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require students to compose 1 or more pieces of music with a combined duration of at least 2 minutes. Compositions may be in response to an exam board set brief and/or be freely composed, with no requirement to do both. Requirement to submit complete recording of each composition with a score, lead sheet or written account of the composition, produced by the student. <p>NB: The student does not have to perform their own composition(s). The recording(s) may be computer generated.</p> <p>Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements.</p>
Physical education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permit exam boards to reduce requirement to 2 activities and allow both to be individual. Permit remote moderation using videoed evidence for all activities.

A Level

A level subject	Decision
Art and design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment to be portfolio only. • Permit exam boards to carry out moderation by photographic and/or digital portfolio.
Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the requirements for the Practical Endorsement to allow assessment of the Common Practical Assessment Criteria (CPAC) across the minimum number of practical activities required to demonstrate competence. • Permit exam boards to monitor centres' application of CPAC by remote means.
Design and technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permit mock-ups and/or clear and detailed intentions of prototypes. • Permit demonstration of using machinery/tools/processes. <p>Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements.</p>
Drama and Theatre	<p>Permit live performance statement to be satisfied through streamed or recorded performances. Require exam boards to permit students to analyse and evaluate the work of others based on live theatre and/or streamed or recorded performances.</p> <p>Devised Performance: Each student to participate as either a performer, director or designer in a devised performance of at least 1.5 minutes (for monologue), and/or 3 minutes (for duologue or group). Permit exam boards to accept alternative evidence to illustrate the intended final piece, the student's contribution to the creation and development of ideas, and their analysis and evaluation of their own work, as appropriate to the task.</p> <p>Text Based Performance: Each student to participate as either a performer, director or designer in a text based performance of at least 1.5 minutes (for monologue), and/or 3 minutes (for duologue or group). Requirement for student to evidence their application of theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions, contribution to the creation and development of ideas, and analysis and evaluation of their own work, as appropriate to the task. Permit evidence to include a complete and unedited audio-visual recording of the text-based performance and/or presentation of each discrete aspect/each student's individual contribution. For performance, permit audio-visual recording of acting performance alone without need for fully designed set/lighting/costumes. For directors and designers, permit alternative evidence that may include prototype of product(s)/original photographs, drawings or annotated sketches of designs /annotated scripts/video or written account/physical demonstrations.</p> <p>Both NEA components: Permit participation in a monologue for both the Devised Performance and Text Based Performance.</p> <p>Exam boards to provide clarification about their requirements.</p>