

3<sup>rd</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

You will no doubt have seen the recent news that the Department for Education has announced the support measures that will be put in place for students to support them in their summer 2021 exams.

At present, the details for each of these measures are still being developed and will be provided by the DfE and exam boards in the New Year, but here is an outline of the support announced today:

- *more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged;*
- *students receiving advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision;*
- *exam aids - like formula sheets - provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise;*
- *additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation; and*
- *a new expert group to look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summers-exams>

The link above is for the official DfE website outlining the changes and explaining each aspect in more detail. At present, there is less detail provided for vocational courses such as BTecs and Cambridge Nationals, but it has been stated that adaptations will be made to these courses to ensure parity.

We will continue to monitor changes and ensure that our students are supported and have the best possible preparation for their exams. We have seen fantastic levels of attendance at the intervention and revision sessions that are running throughout the week and would encourage students to build on this as we approach the mock exams, which are just four school weeks away for both Year 11 and Year 13. Whilst we are expecting the summer exams to continue without issue, the single set of mock exams will be crucial for students to test their preparation.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Hudson  
Vice Principal