

Saint Bede's Catholic High School

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Dear Parents/Carers

Arrangements for GCSE examinations – 2022

Following the disruption to schooling caused by the pandemic over the past two years, the government have signalled their firm intention for Year 11 pupils to sit national GCSE exams in the summer of 2022.

Exam arrangements

In recognition of the disruption to schooling pupils in Year 11 have experienced over the last 18 months, a number of changes to the exams have been announced. The key arrangements for exams in 2022 are as follows:

- The GCSE exams will run from 16th May until 28th June. Pupils will be issued with individual exam timetables in the Spring Term.
- In GCSE English Literature, History and Geography, pupils will have a choice of topics in their exam. Their class teachers will advise them of the choices and exam preparation will be focused on these areas.
- For other subjects where a choice of topics is not available, pupils will have advance notice of exam topics to focus their revision by no later than 28th February 2022. In the event of further disruption to schooling caused by the pandemic, this information may be released earlier.
- In GCSE Maths, pupils will be provided with formulae sheets, and they will be able to use equation sheets in GCSE physics and combined science.
- Results day will be Thursday, 25th August 2022.

Contingency plans

In 2020 and 2021, national GCSE exams were cancelled as a result of the pandemic. Earlier this month, the government confirmed contingency plans in the unlikely event that exams have to be cancelled again in 2022. In summary, these arrangements include:

- Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) will be submitted as in 2021
- Schools are advised to carry out formal assessments on a broadly termly basis over the course of the year to provide evidence for a TAG should this be needed
- These assessments should be based on the exam papers pupils have been preparing for in 2022
- Pupils eligible for access arrangements in exams, such as additional time, should be given this
- Schools must retain evidence of these assessments in school (such as completed exam papers)

The first set of assessments will be the scheduled Mock Exams which are beginning this week. Early in the New Year we will write to you again with details of the arrangements for further assessments later in the academic year, and this will be reviewed in light of any local or national changes with the pandemic.

We wish your child every success with their examinations.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Barnett
Assistant Headteacher