



November 11th 2021

Dear students and families,

I hope that this letter finds you well. I am writing to update you on the current arrangements for the 2022 exam series.

It is the intention that in summer 2022 students will be assessed via exams and, where applicable, non-examination assessment in the adapted GCSEs, AS and A level qualifications. However, Qualification Wales has recently published guidance on the contingency arrangements for GCSEs, AS and A levels, which will be applied if a decision is made to cancel the 2022 exam series. We have been asked to prepare for the possible implementation of the contingency arrangements by planning what assessments we will use to inform centre determined grades, should they be needed, so that the collection of assessment evidence can start as soon as possible. For this to be manageable alongside preparation for the exam series in summer 2022, we are required to integrate these assessments into usual teaching and learning and existing assessment plans. It is important that you are aware of this important information as it will mean that key pieces of work that students are assessed on, could contribute towards the overall grade awarded. This will include mock exams, NEA and any practical work that is completed. In addition, key pieces of assessed work will also be included in the evidence portfolio. I will ask for subject leaders to identify which assessments will be used and share this with students so that they understand that they could be used to determine grades.

Centre determined grades are overall qualification grades that are produced through a holistic judgment that is underpinned by a number of pieces of evidence of demonstrated attainment. It is therefore very important that students are approaching their studies with the correct attitude to learning so that they are in the best possible situation if contingency plans need to be put in place.

We are approaching Year 11 mock exams which will take place during the first week of December, Sixth Form mocks have been scheduled for after Christmas. A copy of the mock timetable will be distributed in the next few days. Teachers are working hard to prepare students for these important examinations as we understand that due to the disruption experienced due to the pandemic they have not had as much experience of mock exams as we would have liked. Could you support us at home by encouraging our students to spend time revising and utilising the revision materials they have been provided with.

We are so proud of you and the resilience that you have shown in the last year. Stay focused and keep working, knowing that your hard work will be worth it! Continue to keep us in your prayers, as we keep you in ours. In the meantime, if you have any particular questions or concerns, please contact me and I will be happy to address them.

With very best wishes,

Mrs Louise Walsh