

17/12/2020

**Government announcement on plans for GCSE and A Level examinations summer 2021**

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you are all well. Thank you for your support over this first term since the national lockdown. Earlier this month the Education Secretary announced a range of measures to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on education. These measures have been detailed in the summary below. It is important to highlight that this does not mean that the standards expected by INA will be lowered in any way, shape or form. These measures will impact young people across the country, it is therefore as important as ever that all aspects of exam preparation remain meticulous. This is imperative as we prepare our students for success at university and beyond.

The measures announced by Department for Education are:

- Grading in line with national outcomes from 2020.
- Students receiving advance notice of **some** topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision.
- Exam aids - such 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.
- If students miss one or more exams due to self-isolation or sickness but have still completed a proportion of their qualification, they will still receive a grade.
- If a student misses all their assessments in a subject, they will have the opportunity to sit a single contingency paper per subject held shortly after the main exams. This will take place between 28 June to 16 July 2021.

There are many details that are not covered in this announcement. It is therefore very important that we carry on with a 'business as usual' approach to exam preparation. We remain relentless in our drive for high quality teaching (face-to-face and virtual), thorough assessment and feedback, and high levels of independent student preparation and practice. I know that you will use the Christmas break to support your son or daughter in utilising the time to revise fully.

We will of course continue to update you as we hear further detail. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely,

Patrick Ball  
Assistant Principal