



A part of Windsor  
Academy Trust

Headteacher  
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Place of registration: England



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@CHAcademyTweets

February 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to give you an update on the arrangements for assessing qualifications this year. Guidance has been published for schools recently about how schools are expected to support the resilience in the exam system in 2023.

The government's intention is that all exams will take place as normal in May and June, just as they did last year, and the national cancellation of exams and the need for alternative assessment arrangements therefore is very unlikely. The government does not expect to ever be in the situation again where exams do not go ahead, but good public policy means having contingency, even for extremely unlikely scenarios. Ofqual has therefore provided guidance for all schools and colleges on the steps they should take to collect and retain evidence in the unlikely event that exams cannot go ahead as planned. It is also important that students understand that should, in the unlikely event, exams be cancelled, these upcoming assessments would be used as a contingency, and therefore it is extremely important that students prepare as thoroughly as possible for their upcoming assessments.

As such, our focus has been on ensuring students are prepared as thoroughly as possible for exams to take place. This includes providing opportunities to practise exam techniques and identify areas of learning that need further practice. Year 11 have already completed their first mock examinations that they sat in November. **The next mock examinations begin on Monday 27th February.**

### Support for Exams in 2023

The government carried out a consultation last year to help determine the course of action for qualifications this year in terms of providing support to mitigate any disruption caused by the pandemic.

1. Students will be given a formula sheet for GCSE Mathematics in Summer 2023
2. Students will be given a revised equation sheet for GCSE Physics and Combined Science in Summer 2023
3. GCSE language assessment will not assess students on unfamiliar vocabulary. Ofqual has removed the previous requirement for exam boards to assess candidates on unfamiliar vocabulary
4. The grading of exams is likely to be back to 2019 levels. Therefore a student is likely to have the same chance of getting a grade A\* to E at A-level or a grade 9 to 1 at GCSE as in 2019



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These adjustments are designed to mitigate the impacts of the disruption that students have faced during the pandemic without undermining the value of their qualifications and their ability to progress successfully to further study.

It is important that students recognise that the support measures are in place to help them and ensure their grades reflect their level of achievement. Students will need to continue to work hard and revise thoroughly for exams in order to get any benefit from the support available.

Yours Faithfully

Mr R Killeen  
Assistant Headteacher