



NORTON COLLEGE

Beyond Expectations

Our Ref: SST/JJA

15th October 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Background and Context

As you will know, summer examinations could not take place in 2020 and 2021. As a result of this, and for the past 2 years, students have been awarded grades by their teachers. In these years, the government decided that exams could not take place safely and that it would have been unfair to ask students to sit exams.

Examination Plans for 2022

The government has now confirmed that it plans for all examinations to go ahead in 2022. Arrangements have been put in place for summer 2022 to support students and make exams fairer for them. One of these arrangements is referred to as **optionality**. This means that the government has introduced a choice of topics or content in some GCSE exams and students will only be assessed on these specific areas of specification content. The second arrangement is referred to as **advance information**. This means that students will be assessed on the full range of specification content but that exam boards will give advance information about the focus of the content before the examination takes place. This will provide guidance for revision for students ahead of summer exams. In addition, in some subjects, **study aids** (for example formulae sheets) will be allowed in some exams.

Our teaching staff will make students aware of how these changes will affect assessment plans in each subject area. There will also be an opportunity for you to discuss this further and ask any subject-specific questions at Year 11 Parents' Evening on 25th November 2021 or Year 13 Parents' Evening on 11th November 2021. Mrs Waines or Mrs McDonald will write to you shortly to outline how these evenings will operate.

In addition, I took an opportunity last week to outline these changes in my Year 11 Assembly and Mrs McDonald will continue to share key information with students in Sixth Form.

Internal Assessments

The Year 11 internal exams week has been scheduled for week commencing 8th November and the Year 13 internal exams week will take place week commencing 6th December. There will be a second internal exams week for each year group in the spring term towards the end of the academic year.

Grading

As we return to summer exams, exam boards will set the grade boundaries for 2022 based on a profile that reflects a midpoint between 2021 and 2019. This will provide a safety net for students, to reflect the disruption this cohort have experienced already in their course and recognising the fact that, because of the pandemic, most A-Level students won't have taken public exams before. As in any other year, exam boards will use data as a starting point, to align their standards in a subject. That will be based on an average of 2019 and 2021 results for each subject. But the grade boundaries for each specification will be set by the senior examiners, after they have reviewed the work produced by students. This system ensures that current students in Year 11 and Year 13 are treated in a way that is fair. It is widely recognised that students' learning has been disrupted due to the pandemic through no fault of their own and this revised approach to grading will take account of that.

Release of Results

The government has recently announced provisional results days for summer 2022. It is anticipated that A-Level (and other Level 3) results will be released to students on 18th August 2022 and GCSE (and other Level 2) results will be released to students on 25th August 2022.

Further Information

The information contained within this letter is underpinned by, and based upon, the guidance that we have received from the government. This guidance can be accessed directly:

- [Ofqual's approach to grading exams and assessments in summer 2022 and autumn 2021](#)

We hope that this information is helpful and that it has addressed any questions that you may have had about the assessment and grading process for students receiving qualifications in summer 2022. If you do have further queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



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