

Dear Year 9 Parent/ Guardian/ Carer

Year 9 Internal Exams (14th June-23rd June 2021)

I am writing to inform you that we have taken the decision to cancel the Year 9 Internal Exams which were scheduled to run from 14th-23rd June. There are a number of reasons for this decision:

- owing to the amount of time in school which the students have missed over the past 12 months, we believe that it will be better to maximise teaching time over the remainder of the school year.
- the last twelve months have been very challenging for everyone and we believe that moving from a period of formal exams to less formal classroom based tests and assessments is a sensible move to take at this stage.
- we have had to schedule additional sets of Year 11 exams and assessments owing to the way in which the GCSE grades are going to be determined this year (based on teacher judgements) - this has increased the workload of staff significantly with the grading process not scheduled to be completed until 18th June.
- to allow us to run the additional sets of Year 11 exams we have had to move the Year 10 exams from the start of Term 5 to the start of Term 6 (when the Year 9 exams were going to take place) which means that we would not be able to run the Year 9 exams in the School Hall during this period – and if we were to delay the Year 9 exams to later in the term it would be very difficult to ensure that they could be marked by the end of the school year.

Subjects will ensure that students' progress is assessed effectively in the remaining months of the school year. This will include classroom based tests and assessments in all subjects. The information from these will help to inform the current grade and progress towards target indicator which your child will receive on their end of Term 6 report.

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress in a particular subject, please contact your child's teacher. If you have broader concerns, please contact your child's tutors.

I hope you understand why we have taken this decision and I would like to emphasise that we do believe this is in the best interests of your child, both academically and personally.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Newbold

Deputy Head