

January 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

As you will be aware from previous communications and the media, all schools continue to work on the assumption that external examinations for the current Year 11 cohort will go ahead as planned in the summer this year.

Whilst we are working hard to prepare students for end-of-course examinations, Government guidance has been released over recent weeks to explain that we should have contingency plans in place, should there be a need to cancel them. Part of this guidance outlines the conditions under which assessments should take place as well as a proposed timetable for examining students in order to gather a broad and reliable range of evidence.

The guidance suggests a round of formal assessments in the first term of Year 11, which were already planned through the November mock examinations. The guidance also suggests two further rounds of testing to ensure that sufficient evidence is available to teachers should the exams be cancelled again.

In light of this, Year 11 will be sitting another round of full mock examinations during the fortnight beginning 28th February. Timetables will be sent out to students in due course and the format and arrangements for the exams will be exactly the same as those that were in place for the November round. Should summer examinations be cancelled, the outcomes of these assessments will be used to inform teacher assessed grades. A third round of assessments are scheduled to begin on 9th May, however, these will only take place if the external exams are cancelled.

If summer examinations go ahead as planned, the February mocks will still provide a very useful indication of what improvements have been made since November and where further work and support is needed ahead of the end of the course.

Some of the afternoon examinations will be completed before the end to the normal school day. Once these exams are finished, students will be free to leave the site. Please note that there will be no school crossing support on the main road outside the school at this time, so students should take extra care if they need to cross the main road. Any students who get the bus home will be able to wait in the library until the end of the day. Students will also have an earlier lunch than they currently do in order to allow afternoon examinations to take place.

Please reinforce with your son/daughter that the summer exams for 2022 are currently scheduled to go ahead as planned and it is absolutely vital that they continue to do all that they can to prepare for them. If we are instructed to use teacher assessed grades in the summer, only the evidence from the mock examinations completed in school will be used as a basis for them. More information regarding the revision process can be found on the school website at <https://chaseterraceacademy.co.uk/school-life/revision/>

We have been promised further information about amendments to summer examinations by 7th February and will of course keep you updated as and when details are provided. The most recent guidance can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-letters-arrangements-for-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022/letter-to-students>

Yours faithfully



Mr J Cain
Deputy Headteacher