



9th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Year 11 Summer Exams 2021

I want to share the latest updates from the government about the exams next summer including some important dates.

Firstly, the clear intention is that exams will happen next summer and the prospect of a vaccine makes this increasingly likely. The government do, however, recognise that this Year 11 group, have had more interruptions to their learning than the students last summer had.

The exam season will start three weeks later than usual on 7th June and run until 2nd July 2021. While this three week delay can never offset the disruption experienced nationally it will be time well used in school. We simply do not know if individual students or the whole cohort might be forced to self-isolate during the exams and so there are contingency plans in place. In subjects where there are elements of coursework (mainly BTEC subjects) then if the external exam is missed due to Covid-19, it may be possible to still get an overall grade awarded if we have clear supporting medical evidence. In subjects where all of the exam is based on the final exams and one or more has been missed then there will be a single contingency exam in the subject. This will be of a similar format to the missed exams and will be used to then award a final grade. These exams are scheduled to take place between 28th June and the 16th July.

Every year some students use the time after the exams to take a holiday within term time. This year, with all of the unknown elements, this may not be possible. If a student misses an exam because they are self-isolating and then does not attend the contingency exam in early July, they will not be awarded a final grade in that subject. Given the stress the students have coped with these last few months that would be a real shame so please note these dates very carefully and do not book any holiday until after the 16th July. The contingency timetable is still being created by the exam boards and will be shared in the new year.

There are also plans to adapt some of the subject papers so that students have some idea about the topics that will be examined. They will also be given some additional support in the form of formula sheets that will be issued on the day of the exam. More details will emerge over the coming weeks and we will share details with students as soon as we know.

The Taunton Academy is part of the Richard Huish Trust, a company limited by Guarantee registered in England and Wales with company number 9320523

Registered Office: Richard Huish College, South Road, Taunton, Somerset TA1 3DZ



Education
Endowment
Foundation



The clarity of summer exams is very welcome because students deserve the chance to demonstrate what they know and to experience final exams. It will better prepare them for life beyond school and I firmly believe that they are ready for the challenge.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eddy', with a long, thin vertical stroke extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Mr J Eddy
Head Teacher