



# The Crossley Heath School

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## Public Examinations in 2022

16<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear parent / carer

Last week the exams regulator, Ofqual, made a number of announcements confirming arrangements for the forthcoming summer 2022 exam series. The DfE and Ofqual intend to run a full exam series for this year's cohort of students but have made some adaptations with a view to supporting students who have lost out on learning as a result of the pandemic.

These adaptations mean that students will have a choice of topics in some GCSE exams like English literature and history, advance information about the focus of exams to help students' revision for other GCSEs and all AS and A levels, and support materials in some exams, such as formulae sheets in GCSE maths.

Exam boards will publish the advance information for GCSE, AS and A levels no later than 7 February 2022. The government may decide to publish the advance information earlier should there be significant further disruption from the pandemic. These adaptations sit alongside the previously announced changes to non-exam assessment (coursework) and fieldwork.

You can find more information on [the adaptations for exams](#) and [adjustments for non-exam assessment on Ofqual's website](#).

Ofqual have also confirmed that in 2022, the standard of grading will reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019. Exam boards will set the grade boundaries so that more students get higher grades in 2022 than before the pandemic. This will provide a safety net for students who might otherwise just miss out on a higher grade.

### Contingency arrangements

Currently there is every indication that there will be a full exam series in Summer 2022 and both the DfE and Ofqual have stated their intention to ensure this is the case. However, they do acknowledge that it is prudent to have a plan for the unlikely event that examinations are not able to take place. Ofqual have stated that in the event that Summer 2022 exams cannot go ahead, students' grades will instead be determined by their teachers, using a Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) approach which will be broadly similar to the approach taken by the school last year.

*An "Outstanding" School – Ofsted*

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With this in mind, the school will continue with its plans to run mock examinations for Y11 and Y13 in January 2022. In the event that summer exams do not go ahead, students' performance in these exams will be used as part of the evidence base for the award of TAGs. More details about the mock exams will be sent to you in due course.

In order to ensure as broad a base of evidence as possible, the school will also be looking to assess students this term in advance of the mocks. Each subject in which a student sits a GCSE or A level qualification will conduct a formal internal assessment in class before the Christmas break, for example a unit test or practice paper. Students will be informed in advance by their teacher / the relevant department where an assessment is one which could be used as evidence towards the award of a TAG. If exams are cancelled, this evidence, along with the mock exams in January, would be supplemented by a further series of assessments in the summer term.

The DfE and Ofqual have stated that it is unlikely that exams will be cancelled this year, and it is very much the school's wish that this is the case. However, we believe that by giving students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills across the three terms is a sensible precaution, and we would ask that you support your son/daughter in preparing thoroughly for any such assessments.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Brownlie', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Brownlie – Deputy Head, Director of Education