

Poynton High School

and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

30 September 2021

Dear Year 11

I am writing to let you know that the Department for Education (DfE) has now confirmed the final changes to the exams and assessments in 2022. We already knew that exams would go ahead and this update confirms the details of some changes they have made to take the impact of the pandemic into account.

The full details of the changes can be found in <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcse-as-and-a-levels-in-2022> and a summary is below.

We are very confident that your year group will do really well in these exams. Your teachers provided much better remote learning than in most schools in January to March this year and you engaged well with that. We have always had a good track record of success in exams. In 2019, the last year before the pandemic, the students' results were in the top 10% of schools in the country. If you work hard, follow the advice of your teachers and develop good memory and retrieval techniques you will do equally well.

Summary of changes to GCSE

1. There will be optional topics and content in GCSE English literature, history and geography. Exam boards will provide your teachers with more information on this soon.
2. Centres will be allowed to deliver practical work in GCSE biology, chemistry, physics and combined science by demonstration. Our teachers will continue to make available hands-on practical activities for you wherever possible but there is now more flexibility.
3. Students taking GCSE art and design will be assessed on their portfolio only.
4. Exam boards will provide advance information about the focus of the content of the exams for all GCSE (except GCSE English literature, history and geography) for the summer 2022 exams. We don't yet know how much help this will be so it is really important that you continue to work on everything and build your knowledge and skills across the whole course. You also need to work really hard to develop techniques to remember the information over the long term and your teachers will be helping you with this.
5. The DfE has confirmed that advance information will be provided by 7 February 2022 at the latest. This will enable your teachers to plan to adapt their teaching in the second half of the spring term if necessary.



6. Students will be given a formulae sheet for GCSE mathematics in summer 2022. Exam boards will provide copies of the formulae sheet for use in teaching and to ensure that students are familiar with it prior to the exams. Clean copies of the formulae sheet will be provided in the exams.

7. Students will be given a revised equation sheet for GCSE physics and combined science in summer 2022, covering all the equations required in the subject content. Exam boards will provide copies of the equation sheet for use in teaching and to ensure that students are familiar with it prior to the exams. Clean copies of the equation sheet will be provided in the exams.

As a year group you have made a really good start to Year 11 and I know that you will work hard and seek the help that you need to do really well at the end of the year. As long as you do your best you will gain results of which you can be proud.

Good luck!



M Dean

Headteacher