



# BEVERLEY HIGH SCHOOL



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7<sup>th</sup> January 2022

Dear Year 11 Student/ Parent,

I am writing to make sure that you are aware of the current arrangements for GCSE examinations in the summer. The current position is that the GCSE examinations will go ahead. The Department for Education (DfE) has recognised however that it is necessary to plan options for alternative arrangements should this be required, particularly in light of the new omicron variant. I will set out the Beverley High School plan for Contingency Assessment Evidence (CAE) in this letter.

If it is no longer possible for GCSE examinations to go ahead, the GCSE results will be determined in a similar manner to last year. Teacher Assessed Grades were arrived at following several assessments in school and a process of moderation to ensure standards. The DfE have asked that we gather CAE in order that a teacher assessed grade could be reliably used in the event of the cancellation of the GCSEs. The school received the DfE guidance at the end of the school Mock period and we have been reviewing the option in order to best support students and staff.

Unlike last year, the GCSE examinations are expected to take place. This places some severe restrictions on how many assessments can take place and when they can take place without impacting on the actual exams. If the exams do take place then the CAE will be completely disregarded and no teacher assessed grades will be determined. The assessments need to be conducted in controlled conditions like the exams but not necessarily in the exam hall. We have been guided to take three assessment pieces.

At the time of the Year 11 Mock exams we had no intention of using the data as evidence for CAE and we had not been asked to do so. However, there is little choice but to use this as an evidence point. The determining of any teacher assessed grades will be weighted to any evidence that is taken later on as it will be more relevant. If a student missed any mock exams or they were not sat in exam conditions then they will not be used and TAGs will be determined only on the later evidence. Consideration of the amount of a course that had been completed at this stage will be factored in.

The remaining assessments will take place in a two-week assessment window from March 21<sup>st</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>. This is as late in the course as possible but only three school weeks before the beginning of the GCSE examinations. This decision has been made to minimise the disruption to the Year 11 exam preparation and completion of curriculum. This also enables us to efficiently provide full access arrangements for all students that require them. In subjects that do Non-Examined Assessments, if NEA has been sufficiently completed it will be considered in the usual manner, e.g Art & Design and Technology.



Assessments will not be able to cover all aspects of the course, in the same way that the GCSE exams do not. Staff will indicate which topics will be assessed but cannot provide sufficient information for the questions to be predictable. Staff will be able to provide the mark for the specific assessment but they cannot share a teacher assessed grade. If a student or parent tries to influence, pressure or continually question staff on this matter it has been deemed malpractice by Ofqual and must be reported to the exam board. Please be reassured that grades are arrived at through careful moderation and recognise that individual staff are not solely responsible for the teacher assessed grades.

A full exam timetable will be released as soon as possible. Please be advised that the circumstances can change rapidly and it might be necessary to change arrangements accordingly. If circumstances change I will inform you as soon as is practical.

Yours sincerely

*P Cork*

Peter Cork  
Assistant Headteacher

