



Willow Bank School

'Better Together'

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9th November 2021

Dear Y11 Parents/Carers and Students,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term. With a busy lead up to the Christmas holidays we write to update you on a few key events for this half term and beyond.

Mock Exams

Mock exams will take place from **6th - 14th December**. Please find attached an overview timetable. Students will receive an individual timetable closer to the exams showing when they will take each of their exams. If students are on part time timetables we will endeavour to fit mock exams into their current timetable - this may be different from the attached. Please note that Health and Social Care mocks will be on 17th - 19th November - students will be given further information from their teacher, Miss Igoe.

Mock exams are a valuable process, not only for finding out what students know but to prepare them for the exam season. Mocks help the school to plan for the needs of all students in the real exams. Our teachers will be working with students to support their revision for the upcoming mocks.

External Exams 2021 - 2022

Some students have been entered for external exams in December and January. These will take place as follows:

- Tuesday 7th December 9.20am ECDL (Computing) for 11 Red/Orange
- Tuesday 7th December 10.10am ECDL (Computing) for 11 Yellow
- Mon 10th January 9.30am Edexcel Level 1 Number and Measure (Maths)
- Mon 10th January 1.30pm OCR Cambridge National Health & Social Care: Essential Values of Care

Further information including confirmation of entries, timetables and an exams pack will be sent out in due course to those involved. Please note that the date and times for the Edexcel and OCR exams are set by the exam board.

Summer Exams 2022

It is the Department of Education's intentions for exams to go ahead this summer. Following a consultation period a number of adaptations have been agreed to support students who have faced disruption to education due to the coronavirus pandemic. Further details about these can be found at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022/outcome/decisions-proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022>



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In summary adaptations include:

- Reduced content in English Literature
- Fine Art assessment to be based solely on the portfolio of work
- Formula sheets available in Maths and Physics exams, provided by the awarding bodies
- Advanced information about the focus of the content of exams to support revision

Additionally, we are awaiting outcomes from a consultation which sets out plans to support the taking of exams if further disruption to education occurs. It considers contingency arrangements for awarding Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) in the unlikely event that exams are not able to go ahead as planned. Schools are being advised to compile evidence of pupil performance. Mocks have proved useful evidence over the last two years.

Details of this consultation can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/contingency-arrangements-gcse-as-a-level-project-and-aea/contingency-arrangements-gcse-as-a-level-project-and-aea>

The summer 2022 exam timetable has also been published and is available on the school website.

School Website - Exams

Our school website contains a useful section relating to exams. Here you will find timetables, JCQ documentation, handy guides and policies relating to exams. This can be found in the STUDENT section of the website, under EXAMS.

If you have any further questions then please get in touch with your child's tutor in the first instance.

We look forward to working with your child.

Yours sincerely,



Diane Davies
Deputy Headteacher