

November 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

On Monday 22nd November our Year 11 students begin their mock exams. The schedule for these mock exams can be found on our website under the 'resources' here: <https://castlemanor.org.uk/exams>.

There are a number of updates that have been published recently by Ofqual regarding GCSE exams in the summer of 2022, and we want to ensure that all parents/carers are fully aware of the information.

It has been made clear to all schools that our Year 11 students should expect to take exams in the summer 2022 and complete all of their coursework in the usual way throughout the year. There have been some modification to the content that will be examined in the following subjects; English Literature, History and Geography, and subject teachers will communicate this clearly to students. This year the Year 11 students will receive a formula sheet in their Mathematics exam and an equations sheet in their science/physics exam. There may also be other advance information for GCSE exams and schools have been promised this information no later than the 7th February 2022.

Ofqual is firmly committed to exams going ahead in the summer 2022 but earlier this week they produced a contingency plan for the unlikely event that exams have to be cancelled again due to the COVID19 pandemic. If exams are cancelled then students' grades will be determined using Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). TAGs are based on robust evidence that teachers collect throughout the course of study which includes, mock exams, internal class assessments and coursework, therefore the full set of mock exams under exam conditions that our Year 11s complete in November and March could be very important. Ofqual has produced an open letter to all students that explains the adaptations to the GCSE exams and contingency plan. This can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-letters-arrangements-for-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022/letter-to-students>

The Year 11s have been working very hard in lessons and attending focussed interventions in a range of subjects either during tutor time or after school. Miss Bushell, Miss Bruce and the Year 11 tutor team have been supporting our students so they are prepared and ready to do their very best in their mock exams.

If you have any questions regarding Year 11 mock exams or the information in this letter then please do e-mail on lcassels@castlemanor.org.uk

Kind regards

Miss Cassels

Deputy Headteacher

Headteacher Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe

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Castle Manor Academy
Eastern Avenue
Haverhill
Suffolk CB9 9JE

Tel: 01440 705501
Fax: 01440 714050
Email: info@castlemanor.org.uk
Website: www.castlemanor.org.uk