



THE BISHOP OF HEREFORD'S BLUECOAT SCHOOL

Hampton Dene Road, Tupsley, Hereford HR1 1UU

Tel: 01432 347501

Enquiries: head@bhbs.hereford.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr Martin Henton

MNH/AHW
4th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

The Department for Education (DfE) have now issued more detail to schools about the examinations for next Summer. I would like to update you on some of the changes.

What will be different this year?

The government have taken the decision that examinations will run but with adjustments to the assessments themselves in some subjects and additional support to mitigate some of the pressure on teaching time and pressure that students experience when revising for, or sitting exams. There is more information available in the following link from the DfE, which I would encourage you to read.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1021743/6834_Decisions_for_proposed_changes_to_the_assessment_of_GCSEs_AS_and_A_levels_in_2022.pdf

The DfE are also building in flexibility in case this situation changes and have opened a consultation about the contingency arrangements. You are welcome to give your views on this at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/contingency-arrangements-gcse-as-a-level-project-and-aea>

When this closes I will update you with further information. I will also be able to answer more questions at our Exams Information Evening on Thursday 4th November at 6pm, which is currently planned as a face to face meeting in school. If there are any changes to these arrangements for a virtual meeting, I will contact you in advance.

The key changes are as follows and your child's teacher will go through with them in each subject exactly what this means:

English Literature, Geography and History – there will be optional topics so that centres will not have to teach all units.

Art – students will be assessed on their portfolio only.

Always Faithful with Christ

Advanced information will be provided by February 7th (except for English Literature, History and Geography) for all subjects. This will support student's revision.

Maths – students will be able to have a formulae sheet.

Science – students will have an equation sheet for the exam which gives them all the equations required.

There have also been some changes to Non-Examined Assessments (NEA), which can be accessed on this link to include practical work and fieldwork:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/994062/6801_1_nea_consultation_decisions.pdf

For example, in PE students will be assessed in two activities rather than three, in Geography there is no mandatory fieldwork, in languages vocabulary used in questions will now have to be on the vocabulary lists, in Food there is no NEA 1 and only 2 dishes are required to be made now, not three, in 3 hours.

I look forward to seeing you on November 4th to explain this in more detail.

Kind Regards,



Ellie Bunston
Deputy Headteacher