

External Examinations & Assessments 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

You may already have read the news this morning which confirms that external examinations **will** take place in the summer with a promise of more generous grading, advance notice of examination topics and additional papers to make up for the disruption faced by students during the pandemic. The article can be found here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education-55160374>

Clearly it would have been desirable for students and teachers to have this information at the beginning of the year so that we could have planned effectively, and I would note that as yet we have only seen news reports and have had no concrete details from the DfE. However, this announcement does give us clarity that the Government firmly intends the examinations and external assessments to go ahead this year, and so we all need to focus on ensuring our students are as well prepared for them as they can be given such challenging circumstances.

With this in mind I am confident that we took the right decision to have the full allocation of face to face lessons this term, unlike many institutions who opted for reduced contact. I also believe that it was right to go ahead with our recent mock examinations as they provided the majority of our students with the opportunity to practice by sitting papers under examination conditions and in the rooms where summer examinations will take place. Whilst this involved even more planning than usual to ensure this could be managed safely, it is crucial that students are as prepared for their examinations as possible. In the current climate, it was inevitable that some students would have to sit examinations remotely. Although those students who sat their mock examination remotely were not able to replicate the full examination experience they were still encouraged to consolidate their learning and had some opportunity to practice their examination skills and techniques.

Mock examination results will be available via the Parent Portal from Monday, 14th December. If you do not have access to the Portal, please check that your son or daughter has given you permission in the first instance. If they are unsure or do not know how to grant permission please ask them to contact the IT Support team. If you have any technical issues accessing the Portal please contact the IT Support help desk by telephone (01905 362600 extension 1001) or email (helpdesk@wsfc.ac.uk). A brief demonstration of the features of the Parent Portal can be view using this link <https://youtu.be/oDip9MWxRFs>.

Please look out for details of the next Parents' Evening scheduled for 14th January. This will provide an opportunity to discuss any concerns in relation to mock results.

Kind regards

Ed Senior

Principal