

11 October 2022

Dear students, parents, and carers,

You may have seen headlines on 29 September regarding decisions that have been made about exams in summer 2023. I am writing to explain more fully what this means for students preparing for GCSEs, AS, A levels and VTQs this year.

The government, the exams regulator Ofqual and the exam boards have confirmed the following:

- At a national level, grades will be in line with grades in 2019. This was always likely to be the case this year, after a one-year transition year when exams returned in 2022.
- However, there will be a safety net to ensure that, nationally, grades are not lower than they were in 2019.
- This means that, generally speaking, students have the same chance of getting a grade A* or C at A level, or a grade 9 or 5 at GCSE, as in 2019.
- Exams in vocational and technical qualifications will also return to a 2019 grade profile.
- Formula sheets will be provided in the GCSE maths, physics and combined sciences exams, meaning that students will not need to memorise these formulae or equations.
- Advanced information about where to focus revision, which was provided in 2022, will **not** be provided this year. Students will need to learn and revise the whole specification as normal. Any topic could come up in the exam.
- The exam boards are currently consulting on the exam timetable. In most qualifications, there is at least a week between the first and last exam paper to ensure that if students are ill for one paper they are able to sit another.

FAQs

Is it fair to return to 2019 grading?

Last year, the Department for Education and Ofqual announced their intention to return to a national pre-pandemic grade profile in summer 2023, so we were aware this was coming.

The decision means that, at a national level, grades will be roughly the same as they were in 2019 (pre-pandemic). However, the government has put an additional safety net in place to ensure that, overall, grades in 2023 are not lower than in 2019.

Colleges, universities and apprenticeship-providers are aware of the changing grade profile year on year and will factor this into their decision making. Because students are largely competing for places with other students in the same year, they are not disadvantaged by this policy.

Why were grades in 2020 – 2022 higher than normal?

In 2020, schools were asked to provide a centre-assessed-grade for students. Initially, these were then rounded up or down by an algorithm. After that, the initial centre-assessed-grade was used. This was during the national lockdown.

In 2021, schools were asked to provide a teacher-assessed grade based on the work that students produced throughout their course. Because the nature of the assessment was different, and schools were told to give students the benefit of the doubt when they were between two grades, this saw a higher proportion of students nationally achieve top grades and pass grades at A level and GCSE than in normal exam years.

In 2022, the government decided to have a transition year, with grades nationally at a midpoint between 2019 and 2021. At a national level, this is what happened in the summer.

What if I or my child has been particularly affected by Covid-19?

There is no current provision to give a different grade if a student has been particularly affected by Covid. The best thing students can do is to catch up with any learning they may have lost, and to talk to their teachers about any aspects of the subject they don't understand or may have misconceptions about.

What other adaptations are in place?

Formula sheets in GCSE maths, physics and combined science will continue. Subject teachers will use these sheets throughout the year so that students become familiar with them and how to use them.

The other adaptations that were in place for 2022 **are not due to continue into the 2023 January or summer exam series**. This includes a reduction in content for GCSE English literature, history, ancient history and geography, and advanced information in all other GCSE and A level subjects, and changes to the course in some vocational or technical subjects.

This means that students must learn and revise the full content for each qualification they are taking.

How can we best prepare for exams next summer?

All students in Year 10 and Year 11 have a **daily booster session** every day focussing on English Mathematics and Science. In year 11 we also have **unit 6** which is a lesson every day after school to further support the students that additional includes their optional subjects.

We plan to offer a **snapshot of progress** with you and your child straight after half term with a **parents' /students' exam support/importance video early next half term**. This will focus on the steps to prepare for the pre public examinations in January and later on in the year. The **timetable for this has been attached to this letter** for your reference alongside a **revision guide list** which we encourage you to purchase for your child/dren. After these **internal examinations** we will invite you to a **parents' evening** to discuss how your child can close the gap and secure the grades they are predicted.

The best way of getting ready for next summer's exams is simple: full attendance; trying hard every day; completing all classwork and homework; revising regularly; acting on feedback and marking from teachers; and reading around your subject or asking for extension work.

Every teacher in our school will be able to advise you on what makes a successful student of their subject and will be happy to discuss this with you.

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**KEN STIMPSON
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL**

Aspire for Excellence and Integrity to gain Success

Principal: Mr B. Erwin | Chair of Governors: Mr T. French

Thank you for taking time to read this information. If you have any further general questions, please contact your child's tutor or, Mr Reed, who will be able to advise you. We all wish all of students the best of luck over the coming year and hope they continue to work hard.

For your reference, attached is the pre- public examination timetable for Year 11 later this term.

Yours faithfully



Mr Bryan Erwin
Principal

Mr Nick Reed
Head of Year

(Please see below for revision guides & pre public examination timetables)



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www.kscs.org.uk

Revision Guides

- **Art**
 - School based
- **Business Studies**
 - AQA GCSE Business Revision Guide – [Click here](#) £9.34
 - AQA GCSE Business Textbook – [Click here](#) - £20.49
 - GCSE Business AQA Revision Question Cards – [Click here](#) - £7.64
- **Childcare**
 - School based
- **Computer Science**
 - GCSE Computer Science AQA Revision Guide – [Click here](#) - £5.95
 - GCSE Computer Science AQA Complete Revision & Practice – [Click here](#) - £10.95
- **Construction**
 - School based booklets provided instead.
- **Dance**
 - School based
- **Drama**
 - School based
- **English - GCSE English Language (AQA 8700)**
 - New GCSE English Language AQA revision guide – [Click here](#) – £6.50
 - AQA GCSE 9-1 English Language Reading (Papers 1 & 2) – [Click here](#) - £2.99
 - AQA GCSE 9-1 English Language Writing (Papers 1 & 2) – [Click here](#) - £2.99
- **English - GCSE English Literature (AQA 8702)**
 - New GCSE English Shakespeare Text Guide, Macbeth – [Click here](#) - £5.95
 - New GCSE English Text guide, A Christmas Carol – [Click here](#) - £5.95
 - New GCSE English Text guide, An Inspector calls – [Click here](#) - £5.95
- **Food Technology**
 - WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering – [Click here](#) - £10.99
- **French**
 - GCSE French AQA Complete Revision & Practice – [Click here](#) - £11.76
- **Geography**
 - CGP GCSE Geography AQA Knowledge Organiser & Retriever – [Click here](#) - £7.00

- **Health & Social Care**
 - School based
- **History**
 - Edexcel GCSE History Medicine in Britain Revision Notebook – [Click here](#) - £5.99
 - Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History Weimar & Nazi Germany Revision Notebook - [Click here](#) - £5.99
 - Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History Early Elizabethan England Revision Guide & Workbook - [Click here](#) - £5.99
 - Edexcel GCSE (9-1) History The American West Revision Guide and Workbook + App – [Click here](#) - £5.99
- **iMedia**
 - School based booklets provided instead.
- **Italian**
 - School based
- **Maths**
 - GCSE Maths AQA Complete Revision & Practice: Higher - [Click here](#) - £9.34
 - GCSE Maths AQA Complete Revision & Practice: Foundation – [Click here](#) - £9.34
- **Music**
 - School based
- **Pathways+**
 - School based
- **Science**
 - Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Combined Science Guided Revision - [Click here](#) - £9.99
- **Sport & PE**
 - School based booklets provided instead.

YEAR 11 PRE-PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS 21 – 24 NOVEMBER 2022

Subjects not doing exams:- Music, Drama, H&SC (Jan 2023), Enterprise BTEC (Jan 2023)

WEEK 1		MORNING						AFTERNOON			
DAY	TIME	SUBJECT	VENUE		TIME	SUBJECT	VENUE		TIME	SUBJECT	VENUE
Monday 21 November 2022	08.45 -	French L+R 34(7H+27F)	3L06(27F) + 3U07(H)	B	11.25	Combined Science P1 Biology (185) 70m	Assembly Hall	B			
	10.30	H45+60m F35+45m			-						
	08.45 -	Dance (13) 90m Media Studies (47)	Assembly Hall		13.10	Triple Science P1 Biology (14) 105m					
	10.15	90m									
Tuesday 22 November 2022	08.45 -	Geog P1 (93) 105m Computer Science (41) 90m	Assembly Hall	R	11.25	English Language (198) 105m	Assembly Hall	R			
	10.30	Construction BTEC (37) 75m			-						
Wednesday 23 November 2022	08.45 -	Maths P1 Non-Calc (207) 90m	Assembly Hall	E	11.25	History P1 (95) 75m	Assembly Hall	E			
	10.15				-						
Thursday 24 November 2022	08.45 -	Bus St GCSE P1 (27) 105m	Assembly Hall	A	11.25	Combined Science P2 Chemistry (183) 70m	Assembly Hall	A	14.10	Childcare (18) 60m	Assembly Hall
	10.30				-						
Friday 25 November 2022		Training Day		K		Training Day		K		Training Day	

YEAR 11 PRE-PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS - 28 NOVEMBER - 02 DECEMBER 2022

WEEK 2		MORNING						AFTERNOON			
DAY	TIME	SUBJECT	VENUE		TIME	SUBJECT	VENUE		TIME	SUBJECT	VENUE
Monday 28 November 2022	08.45 - 10.15	Geog P2 (93) 90m Statistics (19) 90m	Assembly Hall	B	11.25 - 13.05	Maths P2 Calc (207) 90m	Assembly Hall	B			
Tuesday 29 November 2022	08.45 - 10.30	English Literature (198) 105m	Assembly Hall	R	11.25 - 13.10	History P2 (95) 105m	Assembly Hall	R			
Wednesday 30 November 2022	08.45 - 10.15	Maths P3 Calc (209) 90m	Assembly Hall	E	11.25 - 12.40	Food (34) 90m French Writing (34 – 7H+27F) H75m F60m Imedia Cam Nat (46) 75m	Assembly Hall	E			
Thursday 01 December 2022				A	11.25 - 13.10	Combined Science P3 Physics (185) 70m Triple Science P3 Physics (14) 105m	Assembly Hall	A	14.10 - 15.10	Sports Studies Cam Nat (43) 60m PE GCSE (17) 60m	Assembly Hall
Friday 02 December 2022	08.45 - 10.45	Year 11 Catch-up	Assembly Hall	K	11.25 - 13.25	Year 11 Catch-up	Assembly Hall	K			