

9th February 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 11 Mock Examinations and Final Summer Exams

I trust that this letter finds you and your Year 11 child well. Although nothing can ever be guaranteed in a pandemic, it now seems highly likely that summer GCSE exams will take place in May/June 2022 as they would in a normal academic year.

As I am sure you will have read in the media, from Monday 7th February exam boards have been releasing information about the adjustments that they are making to support students sitting external exams this academic year. In some subjects they are giving advanced information about what will appear in this year's exams to enable students to focus their revision to some extent. In other subjects, a greater choice of questions will be given on exam papers to support students who have lost learning through their courses. Other adaptations include allowing students to use support materials, such as formulae sheets, in exams.

We will be collating links to all this information on our website and will let you know when it is ready. We will ensure that the students are fully aware of the exam board adaptations and understand how they will affect their exam experience in each subject.

You will know that we have our second series of mock examinations scheduled for the weeks beginning 21st February and 28th February. We believe that there is value in students having another opportunity to sit full-length papers, in our designated exam hall, as a further practice before final exams.

As a Trust, we had prepared examination papers for these mocks (common papers are used across all five RET schools). We have reviewed these papers carefully in the light of information released by exam boards on Monday 7th February. In most cases, the changes that the exam boards are proposing are slight and will not require us to modify papers. Where we feel small changes are required, we are making these. Students can be confident that they will be sitting mock papers which are fit for purpose.

In marking the papers, we will focus on raw scores, as always, and when feeding back to students we will focus on what they can do to improve their performance. We will of course be focussing particularly on the content that exam boards have confirmed will be in the summer exams.

Ofqual also announced last term that grade boundaries will be lowered this year to recognise the disruption that this cohort has faced over the course of their Key Stage 4 years. We will apply grade boundaries sensibly and report students' outcomes to you. This is never an exact science, and especially difficult this year when we know that these boundaries will be amended more than might be usual to support this cohort of students.

We will, of course, analyse results from the second set of mock examinations as usual and ensure that all students are well supported to make improvements to their performance in the final set of exams.

We very much recognise the experience that this cohort has had through their GCSE years; please be assured of our absolute commitment to support them to reach their full potential in these final months.

If you have any questions regarding the content of this letter please do not hesitate to contact us via admin@kingsschoolhove.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

Mrs S Price
Headteacher

Useful Links:

- Visit the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) website, for [Summer 2022 Arrangements: Advance Information](#).
- JCQ have also developed an [Advance Information Student Guide](#). [Download an accessible version](#).
- Access [subject by subject support for GCSE, AS and A level students in 2022](#) from Ofqual.