



Blackfen School for Girls

Raising aspirations - releasing potential

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Dear Year 11 and Year 13 Parents, carers and students,

SUMMER 2021 EXAMINATIONS UPDATE

I am writing to keep you updated on arrangements for Year 11 and Year 13 public examinations next Summer.

This week, the Secretary of State for Education announced that most of the public examinations scheduled for next Summer will be delayed by about three weeks and will now take place between 7th June and 2nd July 2021. The following proposals will be put in place and should be noted carefully:

- One GCSE Mathematics and one English GCSE examination will be held just before the May half-term, to give students affected by Covid a better chance of still sitting a paper in each of these subjects.
- Results days will be Tuesday 24th August for A and AS levels, and Friday 27th August for GCSEs. It is expected that awarding organisations (examination boards) will align the timing of results for vocational and technical qualifications with that for GCSEs, AS and A levels.
- Ofqual (the government department that regulates qualifications, examinations and assessments in England) will work with schools to develop contingency measures to address “the range of scenarios which might impact students’ ability to sit exams”. Ofqual will spend the next six weeks consulting on what these contingency measures might look like, with more detail to be published “later in the Autumn”.
- No further subject-level changes to examinations and assessments will be made, beyond those small adjustments already outlined by Ofqual.

These proposals mean that the examinations schedule previously issued in the Year 11 Information Evening Booklet (in September) is now out of date. We will issue a new timetable for Year 11, as well as Year 13 examinations, as soon as this information is provided to schools.

However, it is good to see that our planning in school supports these proposals. As explained in last week’s ‘Teaching and Learning Update’ to parents, Year 11 and Year 13 students will be set a test or assessment in every subject, before the October half term break, to allow them and their teachers to evaluate the quality of their progress since September and to guide preparation for the Pre-Public Examinations after half term. [‘Pre-Public Examinations’ or ‘PPEs’ is the term used in



Blackfen School for mock examinations].

School and subject leaders will use these results, as well as the PPE results, to target Year 11 and Year 13 intervention efficiently. The Year 13 PPE examination schedule has now been issued to students and parents and the Year 11 PPE schedule will be published after the October half term break.

I am grateful to parents and carers for working with subject leaders to support your daughter or son's preparation and revision. The school takes these examinations seriously because students need to know their current and potential level of attainment in order to make important decisions, next term, regarding sixth form and higher education courses choices or different forms of training. The proposed arrangements for next Summer indicate the Government's intent for examinations to run as normally as possible and our objective is to work with parents and carers in order to do our very best for our examination students, in whatever circumstances schools and families experience over the coming months.

Yours faithfully,



Miss F Minnis
Deputy Headteacher



