



# The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form

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18<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you with regard to recent updates from Ofqual concerning 2022 GCSE exams. It is the government's firm intention that exams will continue next summer with some minor adjustments:

- GCSEs in some subjects (English literature, history and geography) will have reduced content and this will be communicated to students accordingly.
- Students taking GCSEs in all other subjects will be given advance information about the focus of the content of the exams to support their revision.
- Students taking GCSE mathematics will be given in their exams copies of formulae they would in other years have had to memorise.
- Students taking GCSE physics and combined science will be given in their exams a sheet covering all the equations they might need to apply in the exams.

For further information regarding this summer's exams please find attached an open letter to students from Dr Jo Saxton the Chief regulator of Ofqual

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/open-letters-arrangements-for-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022/letter-to-students>

Ofqual have also recently published its contingency arrangements in the unlikely event that exams are cancelled again next summer. In brief, Teacher Assessed Grades would once again be used as a means of awarding grades.

In determining these grades, the upcoming mock examinations would form a major piece of evidence. They would not be the sole piece of evidence and it must be noted that any grade that students receive in their mock examinations is not a Teacher Assessed grade. With this in mind please find below clarification on how students will be assessed in their mock examinations

- Students will be assessed on a wide range of content, similar to that which they will expect in their summer exams, and across the assessment objectives for the qualification.

**The Ripley Academy, Peasehill, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3JQ.**

- Mock exams will therefore, be similar to full or parts of the exam papers students are preparing to take next summer. Past papers will be used, in full or part, where appropriate.
- Teachers will mark the assessments in line with published exam board mark schemes and guidance where appropriate.
- Students taking art and design qualifications will continue to complete their non-exam assessments – no additional assessments are needed.

With all this in mind, I would like to stress the great importance of the upcoming mock examinations in preparing students for the summer's GCSE exams. Equally in the unlikely event that next summer's examinations are cancelled, they will constitute a significant part of the evidence used in determining Teacher Assessed Grades.

As always, we will keep students and parents updated should there be any further developments.

If there are any queries regarding this or any other matters pertaining to your child's education then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J de Rijk', written in a cursive style.

Mr J de Rijk

Head of School

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