



The Ripley Academy and Sixth Form

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Head of School: **Mr J de Rijk** BA (Hons)
Deputy Headteacher: **Miss J Scattergood** BEd (Hons)
Deputy Headteacher: **Mrs J Thawley** BSc (Hons)
Assistant Headteacher: **Mr M Kirkland** BSc (Hons)

18th November 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

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

- Students taking A levels 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.

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, January's full mock examinations (and to a lesser extent next week's short 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.
- 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.

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

With all this in mind, I would like to stress the great importance of the upcoming mock examinations in preparing students for summer's GCSE and A-level exams, particularly so for our Year 13 students who have yet to experience taking formal public examinations. Equally in the unlikely event that next summer's examinations are cancelled, the mock examinations 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 be 'J de Rijk', written in a cursive style.

Mr J de Rijk

Head of School

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