



Miss Sylvia Thomas – Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus

03 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

At long last we have had the update from the DfE on how the exams for Y11 and Y13 in England will be running next year.

In summary

- Students in England will sit exams which will be delayed by 3 weeks
- Exam board will give schools some of the topics on exams so that revision can be targeted
- In some exams (we have not been told which) students will be provided with information so that they have to memorise less. I would imagine this would be things like mathematical formulae
- If students miss an exam because they have to self-isolate, there will be another opportunity in July to sit a different paper.

Below I have provided the detail of what the DfE said.

In “recognition of the challenges faced by students this year”, and on top of the three-week delay in exams, the government will:

1. Allow more generous grading – which will be “in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged”
2. Under this system, every subject will “receive the same level of generosity so that the approach doesn’t advantage some students over others depending on their subject choice”
3. Give students advance notice of some topics covered in in GCSE, AS and A-levels to focus revision (no further details of which topics, or in which exams)
4. Allow exam aids, such as formula sheets, in “some exams” to give students “more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise”
5. Additional exams as a second chance for students to sit a paper if they miss the main exam because of illness or self-isolation
6. In “extreme cases” where a student has a “legitimate reason to miss all their papers”, then a “validated teacher informed assessment” can be used (but only “once all chances to sit an exam have passed”)

7. A new expert group to look at “differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country” (but regional grading has been ruled out as it’s unfair)

8. Students taking vocational and technical qualifications will see “some adaptations to ensure parity”

When we know more details we will let you know. I imagine that the exam boards will be sending out information over the next couple of weeks.

We will continue to offer the extra support for Y11 and Y13 that has already been taking place since September. We will also monitor the situation with Covid numbers in our area and if they drop sufficiently we will offer our usual half term and Easter booster sessions.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Sylvia Thomas'.

Miss Sylvia Thomas

Principal of Banbury Aspirations Campus