



December 2022

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students

Please find attached a copy of the Upper Five mock examination timetable. Please note that the dates have changed from those originally in the calendar to **Tuesday 31st January through to Tuesday 14th February**. We try to give the students as close to an experience of the real examinations in the Summer as possible using similar papers. This year, compared to previous years, some papers had changed in length, the combinations of subjects chosen by students meant it was not possible to place them together and we also have a considerable proportion of students entitled to extra time. The resulting students would have included 3 examinations on many days and, for extra-time students particularly, there would have been little gap between the subjects.

We have also tried to take other events into account when writing the timetable. This includes:

- The Dance World Cup the previous weekend, along with a loss of Mondays as a teaching day relative to other days. The mock examinations start on Tuesday to reduce the impact of these factors.
- The Drama production was fixed by the availability of the Performing Art Theatre against other commitments. I have discussed with each of these students, and they have an individual timetable so that they can perform in both the production and mock examinations to the best of their ability.

Ofqual has recently provided guidance on the expectations for schools in the very unlikely event examination cannot go ahead in the Summer. They stress “The government does not expect to ever be in the situation again where exams do not go ahead, but good public policy means having contingency, even for extremely unlikely scenarios.”

The guidance includes a requirement for us to retain a copy of the mock examination papers and for us to inform students that their performance in these assessments could be used as part of the evidence to determine a grade for them if exams cannot go ahead as planned. I would emphasise that it is expected that exams and formal assessments will go ahead as planned.

The full guidance is available of the Ofqual website here [Supporting resilience in the exam system in 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/supporting-resilience-in-the-exam-system-in-2023)

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions. I will be speaking to all students next term to explain the arrangements in more detail.

Kind regards,

H. Barnes.

Mr H Barnes

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