

Our Ref: MAD/BAM

6 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I would first like to say how impressed we have been with the start Year 11 have made. Every Year 11 classroom is full of focused, thinking students and every day I see Year 11 students engaged in independent study in the library. They should be very proud of their work ethic.

Last week the government and Ofqual issued some decisions around GCSE exams this summer. All staff are aware of this. The intention of this letter is to summarise the outcomes of this decision for you.

- **The intention is that GCSE exams will go ahead this year.** All teachers and students at SKA are preparing for this. Our work in class, our PPE schedule and our intervention and study club timetable have been designed to prepare students to sit public examinations in the summer. In the event that further disruption causes exams to be cancelled later in the academic year, there is a plan b and we are confident that the experience of the last two years has prepared us to create fair and rigorous teacher assessed grades.
- **Grade boundaries will be set between the 2019 and 2021 mark.** Exam boards will set grade boundaries at a level to ensure that, nationwide, there is not a sudden drop and return to 2019 levels.
- **Concessions will be made for all students in certain exams.** Due to the disruption to learning, the following changes have been made to particular subjects:
 - In English Literature, history, geography and creative iMedia not all topics will be assessed, some will become optional.
 - In PE, students will be assessed on 2 sports rather than 3.
 - In all other subjects, exam boards will release information about the focus of the exam before students sit the exam in order to guide revision.
 - In maths students will have a formulae sheet with them in the exam.
 - In physics students will have an equations sheet with them in the exam.
 - In art and design students will only be assessed on their portfolio work.

All of these adaptations have been designed to ensure that students this year have every chance of being successful and are also taught all of the knowledge and skills needed to move on to the next stage of training and education. At SKA our intention is very much to teach and educate our students in this spirit.

Please also be reminded that Intervention and Study Clubs are running from now, offering support to all Year 11 students. The timetable was shared in a previous letter from Mr Vaughan. Year 11 PRM will

also be running on 14th October in the Academy. We have arranged for all teachers to be in their own spaces and masks and hand sanitiser will be available to mitigate risks with regards Covid.

Please continue to praise and encourage your child, ask them about their learning and even offer to test them on their subjects. Your support is greatly appreciated and does make a difference to your child's outcomes.

If you have any further questions, please reach out to your child's subject teachers for further information.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'B. Madziva', written in a cursive style.

Ms B Madziva
Vice Principal: Curriculum, Progress & Learning