

25/11/2021

Dear Year 11 and Year 13 Students (and Parents),

As we all know, the past 18 months have been a challenging time for everyone in education, and especially for those students preparing to take GCSE and A-Level exams. While we fully expect public exams to go ahead as normal in 2022, the exam board regulator Ofqual has put together a series of contingency arrangements that detail how GCSE and A Level grades are to be awarded if public exams are cancelled due to COVID next summer.

As part of these arrangements, Ofqual has asked schools to run three sets of assessments to collect evidence that could be used to generate Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) if exams do not take place. Ofqual has advised that these assessments should be done under exam conditions with normal access arrangements and special consideration in place for eligible pupils. More detailed guidance on how schools should use this evidence to generate TAGs will be issued by Ofqual in the future. A complete summary of Ofqual's contingency arrangements can be viewed here: [Ofqual Contingency Arrangements for Public Exams 2022](#)

At RGS, our first set of assessments will be the January mock exams. The second set of assessments will consist of a series of short papers (maximum length 1 hour), which will take place in the week beginning Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March. If public exams are cancelled, the third set of assessments will take place during the Summer Term. The dates and format of this third set will be confirmed nearer the time. You will receive grades and feedback from the first two assessments. All assessment papers will be anonymised and identifiable only by candidate number to ensure marking is fair and objective. The grades generated by each of these assessments may be subject to external moderation by the exam boards and should be viewed as indicative only, and not as a Teacher Assessed Grade. If exams go ahead, the evidence will not be used. After the assessments, the papers will be stored by the Exams Office.

On behalf of the School, I would like to reiterate that we fully expect GCSE and A-Level exams to go ahead as normal next summer. As you approach the January mocks, therefore, the message from the School and your teachers remains the same: prepare to the very best of your ability, using the targets set by your teachers to guide you; treat the mocks seriously as a first dry-run at the real thing; and continue to focus on getting the grades you need to move onto the next stage of your lives and education.

In the meantime, if you experience temporary illness, injury or some other event outside your control that affects your ability to perform to your usual level of attainment during one of the assessments, please report this directly to your Head of Year (Mr Pettengell for Year 11 – [lap@rgshw.com](mailto:lap@rgshw.com); Mr Noyes for Year 13 – [sjn@rgshw.com](mailto:sjn@rgshw.com)). They can then discuss with you whether it fulfils the criteria for special consideration. More information about special consideration can be found here: [A Guide to Special Consideration 2021-22](#)

Yours sincerely,

**James Eve**  
**Director of Studies**