

18 March 2022

Curriculum Update Spring Term Assessments

Dear Student, Parents, Carers,

We have had some further updates from the Department of Education (DfE) regarding the summer 2022 assessments that I would like to update you on.

In my [January curriculum Update](#) and the [February Newsletter](#) I wrote to you all about our plans for the summer A level and GCSE exams. The DfE has been requiring us to collect assessment evidence for a potential Teacher Assessed Grade which could be used as a contingency measure if the exams were not able to go ahead. We have now received further guidance on this with the schools minister stating the following.

“there is no requirement on schools [or colleges] to continue to gather new evidence on TAGs into next term. I want them to be focusing as much as possible on the exam preparation, the revision and perhaps the tuition as well that goes along with that to make sure pupils are as well placed as possible to take those exams.”

This is really good news as it means our staff can really focus on using the [pre release information](#) to support students for their final assessments.

Our next set of assessments for GCSE and year 2 A level students will still take place over the next 3 weeks and it is still very important that students prepare for these well. The exams will however be moved in-class and we will not be pausing the curriculum to run another set of synchronous exams in the sports hall as we had planned. This will result in less disruption to teaching.

It should be noted that a number of vocational subjects will also be running mock exams in class during this time as final preparation for the vocational exams taking place this summer.

Please keep an eye on the updates section of our website which is where you can find all previous correspondence send to parents/guardians and students: <https://varndean.ac.uk/updates/>

Regards,

James Gordon

Deputy Principal