

Curriculum Update

## GCSE, IB and Year 2 A level Practice Exams

### Dear Parents / Carers and Students,

I hope this email finds you well. Now that we are well into the Spring term I thought I would take the opportunity to put together another curriculum update.

### Vocational Subjects (BTEC and CTEC)

Students taking vocational courses (BTEC and CTEC) are in the last week of their January exams. The exams have all gone ahead smoothly with results being published for most exams on the 23rd March 2022. Internal assessment of vocational courses continue as normal

### Year 2 A level, IB & GCSE

I wrote in [October](#) detailing the latest update from the Department of Education on their approach to assessment this year. In particular I highlighted the potential use of Teacher Assessed Grades (TAG's) as a contingency measure that would be used in the unlikely event that exams don't take place. Guidance has not substantially changed and we continue to collect "Key Assessments" from students that could potentially contribute to a TAG if we are required to provide one.

In my [curriculum update in November](#) I mentioned our practice exam week that is scheduled for the week commencing 31st January 2022. This will provide some of our students with their first exam hall experience. We feel it is important that students practice assessment under these conditions so that they are well prepared for their final exams in May and June. Practice makes perfect as they say! Exam leave will be given in all year 2 A level (excluding Art subjects), GCSE and year 2 IB lessons.

The full timetable of these exams can be found here: [Practice Exam Timetable Jan 2022](#).

Individual student exam timetables with rooming and concessions details will be on My Varndean during the next week.

It should be noted that all year 1 lessons and all vocational lessons will be running as normal during the practice exam week.

### Masks

As you will have heard that it is no longer a requirement to wear masks in lessons, however, should you wish to ensure your safety and the safety of others you still may choose to do this. Masks are still required in communal spaces including the corridors until the 27th January. We would respectfully request that you still continue to wear them in communal spaces.

## Protect Student Choice Campaign

You may have heard that the government is trying to get rid of vocational qualifications such as BTECs. We need to keep them to give future students the choices you have. Thank you to all of you who signed the petition. The good news is that it has hit over 100,000 signatures so it will be debated in parliament. If you would still like to sign it the deadline is Sunday the 23rd. [#ProtectStudentChoice petition](#)

Many thanks and wishing you good weekend,

**James Gordon**

**Deputy Principal**

