

11th February 2022

Dear Year 11 Students, Parents and Carers,

It has now been confirmed that Summer exams for GCSEs will be taking place in 2022 for the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) and the Department for Education has recognised the difficulties students have faced during the pandemic, and changes have been made to this year's arrangements to help students.

This letter will provide an overview of the approaches to GCSEs in 2022 and where to find key information. Information will also be available on the Academy website. Staff at Axholme Academy will also provide specific updates for each subject to enable students and parents to prepare for the upcoming exams in the best way possible.

What has been published? From 7 Feb, students will be able to view information that will help them with their revision ahead of their exams in the summer

What will be available? For the majority of GCSE, students will be able to view information published by exam boards on some of the exam content, texts, topics and sub-topics, themes and skills due to be assessed.

So will students be getting the questions to their exams before they sit it? No. The additional information aims to focus students' revision without providing exact questions that will appear. A common set of principles have been developed for the advance information, for example avoiding providing so much detail that answers could be pre-prepared and memorised, but the information will look different for each subject and exam board, reflecting the nature of those subjects and their assessments.

What else is being done to ensure fairness in this year's exams? Students will also benefit from other adaptations to exams and the approach to grading this year to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on their education. There will be choices of topics or content in GCSE English literature, history and geography, and a formulae or expanded equations sheet available in exams for GCSE maths, physics and combined science. There are also changes to the requirements for practical

assessments in sciences and art and design, recognising how the pandemic will have affected students' opportunities in these subjects.

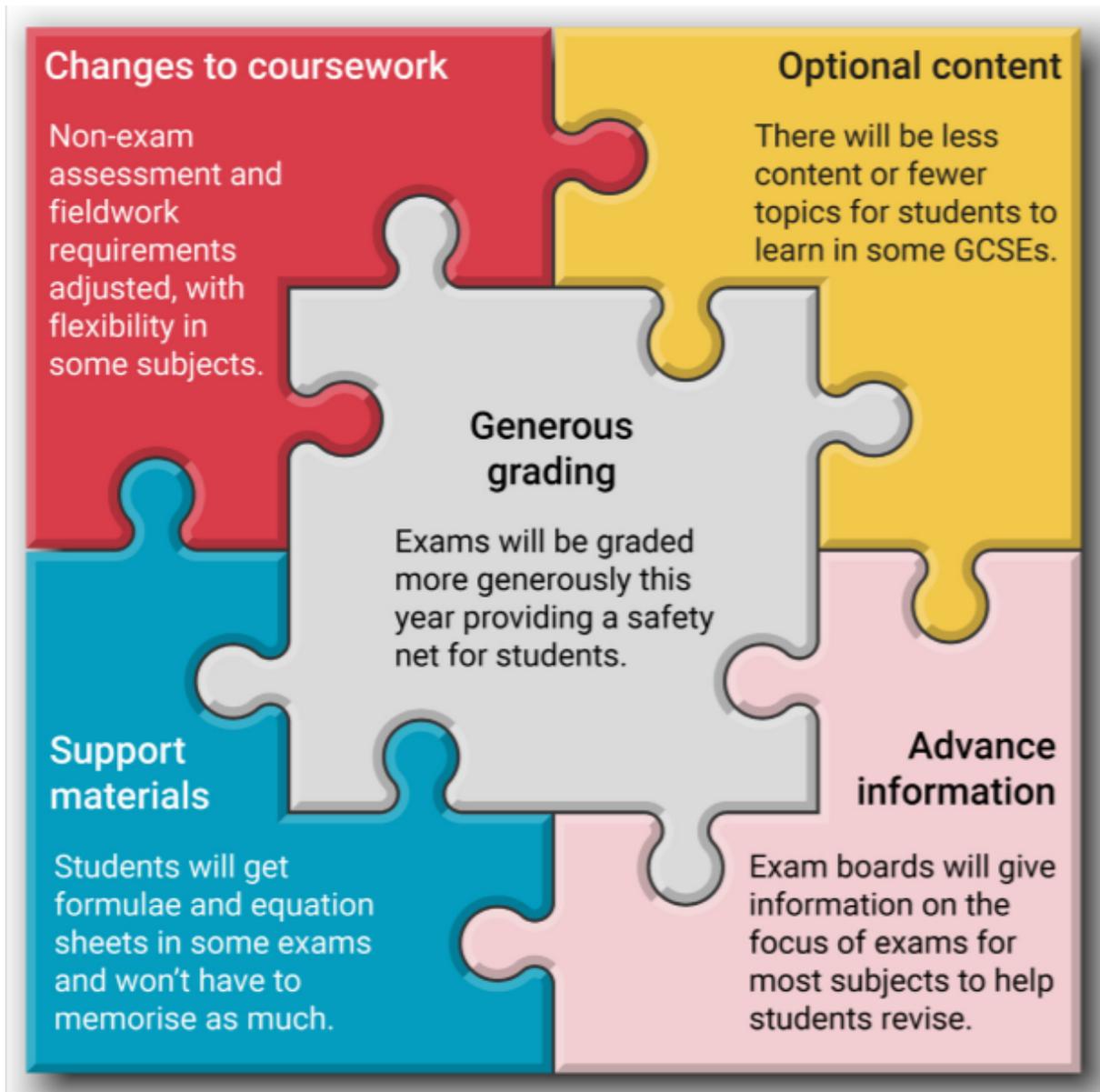
What about the grading of exams this year, is it the same as before? Ofqual's plans for grading this summer mean that grading profiles will not return to pre-pandemic levels immediately, recognising the challenges students have faced. This summer will be a transition year and exam boards will set grade boundaries to reflect a midway point between 2021 and pre-pandemic grading, in a way that is as fair as possible for all students, across all subjects and exam boards.

This will mean that more students get higher grades in 2022 than before the pandemic and will provide a safety net for those students who might otherwise just miss out on a higher grade.

Additional support this year - A package of support has been put in place for students taking GCSE qualifications in summer 2022. It is intended to make sure that the approach is as fair as possible to students given the disruption they have experienced, and many continue to face, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The availability of Advance information is one of the approaches being taken and this will help students to focus on specific topics and students to tailor their revision and preparation for each exam. Exam boards have provided advance information for exams in most subjects. As mentioned above, Students will have a choice of topics or content in some other GCSE subjects. Exam boards will also provide a formulae sheet and an updated equation sheet that students will have in their GCSE maths, physics and combined science exams. This advance information will also help teachers manage revision time in the lead-up to exams. As mentioned, part of the changes includes [more generous grading this year](#) to provide a safety net for students who may have been impacted by the pandemic.

The graphic below summarises the overall approach and the remainder of this letter provides specifics relating to key aspects of the arrangements for GCSEs this year.



[Advance information on GCSEs 2022 from JCQ \(Joint Council for Qualifications\)](#)

This page contains links to Advance Information on JCQ member awarding body websites, and other relevant guidance from the JCQ, Ofqual and more.

Parents, carers and students sitting qualifications in England can use the links below to locate Advance Information relating to GCSE subjects offered by JCQ member awarding bodies, AQA, OCR, Pearson and WJEC.

We will also provide a summary that is specific to courses that students sit at The Axholme Academy. This will be shared via specific Google classrooms connected to each subject and an overview document with key information for all subjects. Information is also available on our [website](#).

Useful Information for Students and Parents: JCQ have also published a range of useful information for students and parents to explain the approach to GCSEs this year. Links to this information can be found here:

- Students FAQs – Advance Information Summer 2022
- Advance Information Student Guidance

We will keep students and parents updated if there is any further information. If you have any questions please contact us at the Academy. We hope that students can now fully prepare for the upcoming GCSE exams and achieve the success they deserve.

Yours sincerely



D Keogh
Principal



B Creasy
Vice Principal