

LANCASTER ROYAL GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

You may have seen the headlines from this morning's announcement about GCSE and A-level exams. I am writing to summarise the measures that the government has announced, which are intended to support students preparing for important exams next year.

The full announcement is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summertime-exams>

Building on the **three-week delay to exams** to free up extra teaching time announced in October, the new measures include:

- **more generous grading** than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged;
- students receiving **advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels** to focus revision;
- **exam aids - like formula sheets** - provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise;
- additional exams to give students a **second chance to sit a paper** if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation; and
- a new **expert group to look at differential learning** and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

The measures are intended to recognise that some young people have had their teaching disrupted more than others and will need extra support.

Even if students miss one or more exams due to self-isolation or sickness but have still completed a proportion of their qualification they will still receive a grade. If a student misses all their assessments in a subject, they will have the opportunity to sit a **contingency paper held shortly after the main exams**. In the extreme case where a student has a legitimate reason to miss all their papers, then a **validated teacher informed assessment** can be used, only once all chances to sit an exam have passed.

The Government will set out **further detail in the new year**.

I hope that these announcements will give some reassurance to our Year 11 and Upper Sixth students as they work hard towards next summer's exams. Students will have plenty of questions about the details. I will make sure that we share information as we receive it in the New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Dr C J Pyle

Head