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MLR/mw/6thForm/Parentmail/2021-22/Yrs11/13 exam information

10 March 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Following the recent Y13 and Y11 mock exams, we thought it was timely to write to you regarding the next steps on the journey towards the A Level and GCSE exams due to take place this summer. The Department for Education gives every indication that A Level and GCSE exams will go ahead,.

However, schools were asked in late 2021 to put into place a 'plan B' in the unlikely event that summer exams are cancelled and Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) are required in order to generate results. Whilst this now seems doubtful, we are required by the government to keep this contingency plan in place. At St. Joseph's College, the mock exams form a part of our 'plan B'.

The second part of that plan is as follows:

- We will have a 4 week assessment window for in-class assessments
- Students will be set short assessment tasks, of 45 mins –1hr each
- Advanced warning will be given to all students in order for them to prepare for these mini assessments
- These assessments will also allow teachers to gain up-to-date diagnostic information and provide a great opportunity for students to revise and practise exam technique in preparation for their terminal exams
- This assessment window will run between 21st March and the 29th April
- Any student that usually qualifies for extra time or another access arrangement will be given the correct provision

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Whilst the assessments completed during this 'plan B' assessment window are important, we have taken the decision to make them less formal by keeping the assessments in class. We want to keep students in the classroom as much as possible to prepare for the summer exams. Taking them away from lessons for another formal mock week feels counterproductive; students will benefit most from being in class with their expert teachers in these last weeks.

Dr Jo Saxton, Ofqual's Chief Regulator, has written to all A Level and GCSE candidates (see below) to ensure that they understand the nature and importance of the advance information. Please read this letter and share it with your children.

Please be assured that staff have been working tirelessly since the publication of this information to ensure that the final weeks of study that remain are tailored around the advance information . Our after-school intervention sessions have also been written with the advance information in mind.

Should you have any further questions, as always, please do not hesitate to contact us.

With best wishes,



Ms M Roberts
Head Teacher

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