

## Parentmail Update: 28.01.22

Dear Parent/Carer

### External Qualifications 2022 (GCSE, AS and A Level)

This week we have received updated information from the Welsh Government regarding exams in 2022. Jeremy Miles the Welsh Minister for Education has confirmed that "Exams and assessments this year will go ahead, unless the public health situation makes it impossible for them to physically run - which we do not envisage."

Therefore, as a school, we continue to work on the basis that traditional exams will be taken by pupils this year. This will mean that our mock exams will go ahead week commencing 28 February 2022. All pupils have received a general mock timetable to inform them when their mocks in different subjects will be held. However, they will also receive a personalised timetable, similar to the one they will receive in the summer for the actual exams.

Examination year pupils have had very little experience of sitting formal exams over the last 2 years. Therefore, it is important that we give them the most realistic experience possible during the mocks to prepare them for the summer exams. Pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13 have had assemblies where information regarding the mocks has been given. These will be supplemented by additional assemblies over the next couple of weeks where the rules and regulations relating to formal exams will be explained, which we hope to replicate as far as possible during the mock exams.

There is now a diminishing chance that summer exams will be cancelled and that grades will be awarded on the basis of Centre Determined Grades.

However, we still need to be mindful that this situation is still a remote possibility.

Our contingency planning for this eventuality will need to consider using the forthcoming mock exams as part of the evidence which **might** be needed if exams are cancelled. Pupils have been informed that work produced during the mock exams **may** be used to help provide a holistic grade **should** the summer exams be cancelled. We have informed them that the primary purpose of the mock exams is to familiarise them with a formal exam experience. We have also reassured pupils that the mock exams are not the only pieces of evidence that would be used in reaching a holistic best fit Centre Determined Grade judgement if exams were to be cancelled.

### Face coverings

Although Welsh Government has today relaxed some general Covid-19 regulations, we will need to wait until 10 February 2022 for more specific guidance relating to

schools. Therefore, the requirement for pupils to wear a face covering when inside school buildings will remain in place.

### **Covid-19 Self Isolation Regulations**

Updated information from Welsh Government regarding changes to self isolation requirements can be viewed by accessing the links below:

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-reducing-self-isolation-period-five-days>

<https://gov.wales/self-isolation-period-reduced>

To summarise, the main changes taken from the Welsh Government's Minister for Health's announcement can be read below.

*"I have therefore decided that from Friday January 28, the legally required isolation period in Wales for all those who test positive for Covid-19, including children, will be reduced from seven full days to five. The first full day of isolation is the day after the onset of symptoms or the day after a positive test if a person is asymptomatic.*

*To reduce the risk of people leaving isolation while still infectious, people will be strongly advised to start taking lateral flow tests on day five and to remain in isolation until they have had two consecutive negative results, 24 hours apart. These changes will also apply to more sensitive areas such as health and social care workers and revised guidance will be issued shortly.*

*The earliest a person will be able to leave isolation, therefore, would be on day six after a second negative lateral flow test.*

*We would anticipate this change in policy will help the majority of people leave isolation safely on day six, in the knowledge they are no longer infectious."*

We wish all families an enjoyable weekend.

Cowbridge Comprehensive School Senior Leadership Team.