



**Rossett School**

Success for everyone

11 February 2022

Dear Year 11 and Year 13 Parents/Carers,

### **Publication of the advanced information on Year 11/13 Examinations: Summer 2022**

Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022, saw the long-awaited publication of details of the changes to GCSE, BTEC and A Level examinations this summer. These changes have been promised for some time and explain in detail the ways in which the examinations' boards are making some 'allowance' for the impact of the COVID pandemic on students' progress in the last two years. This week, we have been closely analysing these changes, ready to communicate them to our students and you as parents and carers. The changes are categorised as four main types:

1. **Advance information** – some examination boards have given information on the 'focus' of the exams to help students with their revision of certain parts of the course.
2. **Optionality** – in some subjects, students will be able to choose to answer 'sections' of the examination, instead of all of it.
3. **Reduction or removal of coursework** – for example, fieldwork requirements have been adjusted and removed in certain subjects such as Geography
4. **Support materials** – students will get formulae and equation sheets in GCSE Maths and Physics, so they won't have to memorise as much.

Some subjects and examination boards have instituted greater changes than others and each change - in many cases - are small and specific.

To help you and your child understand the changes, we have compiled a central record of the main variations for each qualification studied at Rossett, so that you are able to see all information in one place and support your child with their exam preparation. In this record, you will find the 'broad overview of all changes' for the subject and then links to detailed changes for each subject. Please see the attachment to this email to access the list of subjects we teach and the relevant information for each one.

This morning, Ms Woodcock and myself delivered an assembly to Year 11 students about the main changes and Year 13 will get a similar assembly next week. In addition, your child will receive a clear and concise message about the specific changes to their qualifications during lesson time in the next few weeks, from their classroom teacher. We strongly urge you to refer solely to this attachment as a central point of information, rather than other looking at other news or internet resources so that you are not inadvertently following guidance that may well have been produced for GCSE or A' Level Mathematics by another examination board (both GCSE and A 'Level Mathematics are with the EDEXCEL examination board at Rossett School).

Some of the literature produced to reassure students and parents has made reference to a 'generous grading system' which should provide a 'safety net' for students this summer. We are strongly advising both parents and students not to rely on this promise.

[www.rossettschool.co.uk](http://www.rossettschool.co.uk)

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As a school our message to our students is clear: **work hard; focus on the areas** that have been earmarked for inclusion in the formal examinations, and **do your best on the day**, after lots of **revision**.

We are acutely aware that everyone is looking for a sense of security at this time, but relying on 'generosity' could lead to underperformance. The idea that a safety net is in place for every student nationally is not a helpful message at this time, so please continue to encourage your child to work as hard as they can. This 'generosity' is not quantified or guaranteed but left to the discretion of the boards and Chief Examiners. Any changes to grade boundaries will be made on a universal level across the country, not specific to individual circumstances, hardships or absence records.

Should you have any further queries about these changes, and what they mean for your child, please direct all your emails or phone calls to the Director of Studies for each individual subject.

Mrs G Brown: English – [gbrown@rossettschool.co.uk](mailto:gbrown@rossettschool.co.uk)

Mr A Binns: Mathematics – [abins@rossettschool.co.uk](mailto:abins@rossettschool.co.uk)

Miss H Thorpe-Greenwood: Science – [hthorpegreenwood@rossettschool.co.uk](mailto:hthorpegreenwood@rossettschool.co.uk)

Mr C Bruce-Halliwell: Modern Foreign Languages – [challiwell@rossettschool.co.uk](mailto:challiwell@rossettschool.co.uk)

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Despite the fact that these changes have been announced later in the school year than perhaps we would have liked, they do illustrate a real effort by the examination boards to support students with their studies and their summer examinations, at the end of what has been a challenging two years.

Alongside the revision, catch-up and subject intervention sessions that are already taking place at the beginning, during and at the end of the school day, there will be other opportunities for students to take part in extra support activities and to access online materials.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Saunders  
Deputy Headteacher

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