



**KING EDWARD VI  
NORTHFIELD  
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

*Educational excellence for our City*

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FOUNDATION  
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7<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you are already aware, the Year 11 mock examination period is already in full swing. These exams have taken on added importance this year as we have been asked by the Government to put into place a contingency plan, a 'Plan B' in the event that the summer exams cannot go ahead due to Covid.

Firstly, and most importantly, in all likelihood normal GCSE examinations will go ahead in the summer term as planned. All of the information coming into school from the Government and the examination boards is for this to be the case. The mock exams that your daughter is sitting at the moment are an important part of her preparation for these.

Two years of disruption to the education system has meant that the exam boards are reducing the content that the examinations will cover, and we will be notified about what this means precisely no later than 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022. As soon as we have this confirmed, then this information will be clearly communicated to your daughter and to yourselves.

They are also changing the way that the exams are graded to reflect a midway point between 2021 and 2019. This means that exam boards will set the grade boundaries so that more students get higher grades in 2022 than before the Covid pandemic. We have been assured that this will provide a safety net for those students who might otherwise just miss out on a higher grade.

In the very unlikely event that the summer exams do not go ahead due to further Covid disruption we have been asked to put into place three rounds of mock examinations spread across the remaining time of Year 11 to provide evidence towards a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG).

The schedule for mock examinations / assessments is as follows:

1. December 2021 – January 2022.
2. Starting 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (immediately after the February half-term).
3. Starting 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022 (immediately after Easter).

The mocks / assessments will cover all the different assessment objectives and the range of content for that qualification and will serve as good practice and preparation for the summer exams that start in May.

Headteacher: Mr Neil Jones



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The teachers will use exam-board materials, marking and grade boundaries, where they are available and will moderate the examinations to ensure fairness and as robust a result as we can.

At the moment, we have not been asked to arrive at a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG), but just to ensure that we will be in a position to do so if this becomes necessary. Therefore, we have been asked to retain all original assessment / mock examination scripts in school. Your daughter can of course have a copy of her examination to use for revision purposes.

If we are asked to decide on Teacher Assessed Grades in place of the external examinations, they will be based on a combination of mocks / assessments undertaken in these three slots and a range of other evidence. Any mock result that your daughter receives is therefore not a final grade, but something to contribute towards it. Please also be aware that although we have been given an indication that the grade boundaries will be more lenient than in 2019 when formal examinations were last sat, we have no precise knowledge of the 2022 grade boundaries.

It would be a great help to us if you could take time to discuss with your daughter the importance of taking these mocks / assessments seriously, and she should get herself prepared for them. However, we do expect that external examinations will take place in the summer term as expected.

If your daughter is at all confused about her mocks or unsure about revision techniques or the content that she will be examined upon, then she should speak to her class teacher in the first instance or to see Mrs Simcox (Head of Year 11) or pop into speak to myself. We are always be around to support and help.

If this situation changes, then I will contact you immediately. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Jacqueline Hall  
Deputy Headteacher