

Mr P Walker BSc (Hons) – Headteacher
Mr R Vaughan – Chair of Governors

Crofton Academy
High Street
Crofton
Wakefield
WF4 1NF

18th November 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Year 11 Mock Examinations Information and Summer 2022 GCSE and Vocational Qualifications Update

Year 11 Mock Examinations

I am writing to inform you that all pupils in Year 11 will undertake mock examinations in the majority of subjects that they study between **Monday 29th November and Friday 10th December**.

These mock exams will provide class teachers with in-depth information regarding your child's understanding and progress in all their courses and help to determine bespoke revision for pupils in preparation for their final exams.

Pupils have received a copy of the mock exam timetable today. When pupils are not in an exam they will attend their normal timetabled lessons. Most exams will take place in the sports hall, where this differs due to subject or exam access arrangements, pupils will be informed of this well in advance.

Pupil Preparation

Teachers continue to prepare pupils for their examinations through their day to day teaching. In addition to this, pupils have an extensive booster program that is designed to help them prepare for the exams.

Results

The Department of Education (DfE) and Ofqual have published the outcome of a consultation on how adaptations to GCSE exams will be put into place for summer 2022. Whilst decisions have already been made and outlined in the summary this will be reflected in the Year 11 mock exams. Further information is still to be shared by exam boards with schools in February 2022. Therefore, whilst the exam outcomes will inform our curriculum planning from January, we will further amend these plans as needed once this additional information is available.

The exams will also allow class teachers to identify any gaps in pupil's knowledge should they exist. At the beginning of January, pupils will receive their results during form time 'mock exam results morning' and will be given detailed question level feedback by their class teachers in lessons. This will help pupils to understand which questions they performed well on and which questions they may need more support with in preparation towards their exams next summer.

Summer 2022 GCSE and Vocational Qualification Update

The Department for Education (DfE) and Ofqual have now published the outcome of a consultation on how adaptations to GCSE exams will be put in place for summer 2022 to support pupils and make exams fairer for them given the disruption to their learning over the past 18 months.



You can find a summary of the key decisions and full documents here –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022/outcome/decisions-proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2022>

Grading of examination work in 2022

Ofqual have determined that 2022 will be a 'transition year' for grading. The adjustments to examination content, assessment, grading, along with the changes to non-exam assessment and fieldwork are designed to mitigate the impact of the disruption that pupils have faced during the pandemic, without undermining the value of their qualifications and their ability to progress successfully to further study. We do, however, await guidance for our vocational learners but anticipate this to reflect the adjustments made to GCSEs.

Contingency Plans

All academies and schools are required to have their own well-established contingency plans in place to ensure a consistent and effective response in the event of major disruption to the examination system affecting significant numbers of candidates across several awarding organisations. The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has informed all academies and schools that if such major disruption does occur and prevents examinations taking place, then pupil's outcomes will be determined from their performance in mock exams throughout this year. Therefore, the importance of pupil's performance in mock exams becomes increasingly important.

Issuing of Results

I am able to confirm that the results day for Summer 2022 will be **Thursday 25th August 2022**. I will communicate more information regarding this in due course.

We all remain committed to ensuring our Year 11 pupils are well prepared and supported to achieve their very best in their GCSEs and vocational courses. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Mr P Walker
Headteacher