



Meadowhead School

Academy Trust

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KGR/SGI
Monday 24th January 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Required Amendments to the Year 11 Core Trial Examinations 2022

While exams are scheduled to go ahead in summer 2022 and a range of adaptations are in place to help students, the Department for Education (DfE) in England and Ofqual (national body for ensuring the standards in examinations) recently confirmed their contingency plans if exams were not able to take place, as:

- a teacher assessed grades (TAGs) process – similar to 2021 – is the contingency for 2022
- if exams were cancelled in some parts of England, TAGs would be implemented nationally

[Ofqual published new guidance](#) (which you can read in detail by clicking the link here) setting out what teachers in all schools should do during **the rest of this academic year**, until exams are taken, as a contingency in case they do not take place.

Key points:

- Students should be assessed under exam-like conditions each term
- Students should be assessed on a wide range of content
- Assessment materials should be as useful as possible for students preparing to take summer exams – similar to full or parts of exam papers
- Students should not re-sit assessments
- Students must be told before each assessment their performance would be used as part of evidence to determine a TAG
- Teachers should mark in line with published exam board mark schemes and guidance
- Teachers may tell the student the grade at which their performance in the assessment indicates they have performed
- Students should be supported to complete their non-exam assessment (NEA) wherever possible
- Original student work must be retained by the centre
- Reasonable adjustments: the same adjustments made for disabled students taking exams in the summer should be applied, where possible, to assessments
- Special consideration: the teacher should adjust their marking if they are satisfied a student's performance was affected by an event such as illness or family bereavement.

Our published assessment calendar for Year 11 contains a week of core trials examinations due to begin on Monday 28th February, an approach we have operated for many years.

This usually consists of all students sitting 8 full examination papers covering the core subjects of English, Maths and science, usually over 4 days.

However, in light of the Ofqual guidance, and the requirement to assess students in examination conditions across **all** of their written subjects, we are implementing the following adaptations to the core trials.

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- Instead of the 8 core subject assessments taking place over 4 days (morning and afternoon exams each day), students will only sit one core assessment each day (afternoon each day).
- Students will be dismissed from their afternoon examinations **but should still continue to attend after school revision groups/national tutoring programme sessions as normal.**
- This approach gives students more time in the morning sessions to concentrate on their options (coursework) and means that students have a single assessment focus for each day.
- If we are required to use this evidence for the awarding of teacher assessed grades (TAGs), we want students to be in the best position to do their best and by distributing examinations over a longer period, we hope to support students with that aim.
- Following the core trials, we will be including further assessments for option subjects (where they would normally have a written summer paper).
- This will be in the form of a single paper per subject and will be timetabled as shown below.
- If a student has not chosen one of these subjects, they will not have any further assessments during this period and will continue to attend their normal school timetable.
- If a student is absent during their assessment, we will attempt to give them an opportunity later in the window to sit the paper. This may mean that they have a core assessment during an option assessment slot.

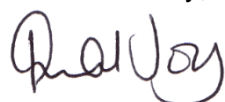
Date	Morning (9AM)	Afternoon (12:45 PM)
Monday 28 th February		English 1
Tuesday 1 st March		Maths 1
Wednesday 2 nd March		Biology
Thursday 3 rd March		English 2
Friday 4 th March		Maths 2
Monday 7 th March		Chemistry
Tuesday 8 th March		Physics
Wednesday 9 th March		Maths 3
Thursday 10 th March		Technology/Construction/ RS
Friday 11 th March		Sports Studies
Monday 14 th March	History	
Tuesday 15 th March	Geography	
Wednesday 16 th March	Languages*	
Thursday 17 th March	Food/Computer Science/Music*	
Friday 18 th March	Catch up session	

Students attended a virtual assembly this morning explaining the information shared in this letter and they will receive a paper copy of the timetable this week.

We hope that you will understand and support the amendments that we are required to include this term and that by working together we can ensure that students are given the best opportunities to show their level of understanding of their subjects.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact us using the email address heggsc@meadowhead.sheffield.sch.uk

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K Grewal-Joy
Headteacher



Mr C. Heggs
Assistant Headteacher