

29 December 2020

Dear Year 11 parents / carers and students,

As announced by the Government immediately prior to the Christmas break schools are to prepare for mass COVID 19 testing and a staggered start to Term 3 in January. The leadership team have been working in school over this break, with plans and preparations now being developed and put in place to facilitate these actions.

However, the need to facilitate such significant change, especially with the physical space in school needed to put the new testing operation in place, has necessitated changes to the original planning and organisation of some school events, including the PPE (mock) exams.

Therefore:

- **External examinations for the selected BTEC subjects of Music, ICT, Business, Health & Social and PE (CNAT) timetabled for early January or early February will still go ahead as originally scheduled.**
- **It has now become necessary to postpone the Year 11 PPE (mock) exams until Term 4 as the logistics required for mass testing means that it will be physically impossible to hold these exams at the same time. Mass testing is a significant undertaking and to run this alongside the mock exams, combined with continuing COVID 19 uncertainty, will undoubtedly have an unsettling effect and not create an environment conducive to good PPE (mock) performance.**

Please note that the new proposed PPE (mock) exam dates will be:

Tuesday 23 February – Thursday 04 March 2021

It is hoped that by Term 4 the schools mass testing systems will be embedded, less of a distraction and the national Covid 19 situation could potentially be improving. Students should not worry about any 'unused' revision as all revision is useful and will help students to get ahead *'in the race'* as explained in recent assemblies, plus it allows a focus on just those BTEC subject exams still taking place.

One reason for undertaking the PPE (mock) exams, is to get a realistic picture of how students are performing. Therefore, a concern that parents / carers and students may have relates to not having PPE (mock) data to make any judgement and you are not to worry. Please note that if we moved to a situation where students in Year 11 were not to sit terminal examinations on the summer, we have a significant amount of sources of information that we can draw on to make any realistic and meaningful judgment on student progress.

Summer Exam Update 2021:

Parents need to be aware that the Government and examination boards, at this moment in time, are still intending to run this summer's 2021 GCSE exams as planned but **3 weeks later** than normal from **Monday 24 May until Friday 02 July**. Practical exams for the Creative Arts subjects will also take place before this.

In addition, the examination boards have also announced a series of contingency days in the summer beyond the end of the normal exam period for those students unable to take exams as a result of testing positive for Covid-19 or having to self-isolate. During this period, any student unable to take exams during the normal timetabled slot will have to take an alternative paper in order to qualify for certification.

The dates for these exams will be between 28 June and 16 July. Please ensure that your son or daughter is available to take exams during this period should it be required.

GCSE exam results will then be released on Thursday 26 August

Thank you in advance for your continuing flexibility and adaptability to the ever changing circumstances in schools and I hope that you and your family are safe and well over the festive period.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J. Hind

Executive Deputy Headteacher

South Lincolnshire Academies Trust