

6 November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Over the last few months, the qualifications regulator, Ofqual have consulted on the structure of GCSE and vocational courses for this academic year. There are some changes to GCSE subjects including French, Art, English, Geography and History which were confirmed at the start of this academic year. These changes are as follows:

Course	Changes
Art	There will be no exam. Instead the course will be assessed via 100% coursework.
Computer Science	The programming unit can be completed in unsupervised time.
English Literature	There is a 20% reduction in the examined content, with the removal of the poetry anthology.
French	The spoken-language assessment will no longer be included in the final 9-1 grade. Instead, it will be an endorsement reported on a three-point scale (pass, merit, distinction) and will be assessed by teachers during the course.
Food	Based on teacher guidance, students may be able to complete two instead of three practicals in the practical element of the coursework.
History	The American West unit has been removed from the exam.
Geography	Fieldwork is not required and students will not be expected to answer questions in the exam relating to their own fieldwork experience.
Music	Coursework has been reduced with one performance and one composition required instead of two of each.
Spanish	The spoken-language assessment will no longer be included in the final 9-1 grade. Instead, it will be an endorsement reported on a three-point scale (pass, merit, distinction) and will be assessed by teachers during the course.

This week, we have received confirmation of the structure and assessment requirements for the vocational subjects noted below.

- Enterprise & Marketing
- Performing Arts
- Sport

Prior to this announcement, exam boards had advised that it was likely that some units, particularly those assessed via coursework, would not be assessed. However, Ofqual have this week confirmed that the course is to be completed as normal with each of the units being assessed through coursework or exams.



Following the period of lockdown last academic year, we are aware that some students have some gaps in their coursework units. Therefore, we will be working closely with students over the course of the year to support them in completing all of their coursework elements. We will keep you updated of the steps that we will be taking to ensure all students are able to successfully complete their courses.

We are still awaiting confirmation regarding the Hospitality and Catering course. In Engineering, all elements of the coursework are likely to be completed. However, we are awaiting confirmation of whether students will be expected to sit the exam.

We will continue to update you when we receive further information from Ofqual and the exam boards. Please do not hesitate to get in contact if you have any questions.

Yours sincerely

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