

Ref: HT/tlb

Thursday 3rd December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

GCSE, AS and A level examinations summer 2021

The DfE has announced today that **all public examinations will take place as planned next summer**. Key points in the announcement are that:

- There will be more generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020, so students this year are not disadvantaged;
- Students will receive advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSE, AS and A levels to focus revision;
- Exam aids - like formula sheets - provided in some exams giving students more confidence and reducing the amount of information they need to memorise;
- Students taking vocational and technical qualifications will also see adaptations to ensure parity between general and vocational qualifications. Some vocational qualifications will require more varied adaptations due to the different qualification types;
- The government has also developed a series of contingency measures with Ofqual that will mean, even if students miss one or more exams due to self-isolation or sickness but have still completed a proportion of their qualification, they will still receive a grade;
- If a student misses all their assessments in a subject, they will have the opportunity to sit a contingency paper held shortly after the main exams. In the extreme case where a student has a legitimate reason to miss all their papers, then a validated teacher informed assessment can be used, only once all chances to sit an exam have passed;
- Test and exam results will not be included in performance tables this year, and instead will be replaced by attendance information, student destinations information and data about the subjects taken at key stage 4 and 5;
- A new expert group will look at differential learning and monitor the variation in the impact of the pandemic on students across the country.

We expect to hear more specific detail from the exam boards in January 2021 and we will update you with further information when we have it.

End of term arrangements

Fortunately, we are still able to maintain some of our festive traditions this year and the Christmas tree lights are sparkling brightly across the school site. The Year 7 Santa Fun Run takes place next Wednesday 9th December and there will be Christmas lunches for Years 7→ 9 on Tuesday 15th and for Year 10 →13 on Wednesday 16th December.

There will be a slightly shortened last day of term on Friday 18th December, where we will be holding a non-uniform event to raise funds for *Save the Children*. Students can wear their Christmas jumper or something suitably festive and the donation will be 50 pence per student. Normal lessons will take place during periods 1 → 3 and after break 'virtual' celebration assemblies will begin for year groups until 12.20pm. Students will then be dismissed and early buses have been arranged. Any students in receipt of Free School Meals will be able to obtain an early lunch at break time.

Communication regarding government supermarket vouchers, for students in receipt of Free School Meals over the Christmas period, will be released next week via e-mail. If any family is in need of extra help over the Christmas holiday, whether or not you are entitled to free school meals, please do get in touch for some confidential support.

As this is the time of year when we may be affected by poor weather, you should be aware that the Local Authority closure procedure is that all parents and carers should listen to Radio Cornwall during the morning to hear whether the school is closed. If Newquay Tretherras is not specifically mentioned as being closed, you should assume that the school remains open as normal. You can also access the latest news alerts on our website and social media accounts.

As we approach the end of this remarkable term, our staff and pupils are tired, although we are in good spirits and morale remains high. I would like to pay tribute to the excellent work of Tretherras staff, both teaching and support staff, whose commitment and dedication to our children and young people has kept our school open throughout this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and healthy New Year. We look forward to welcoming everyone back to school on Monday 4th January, 2021.

With very best wishes



MRS S FAIRBAIRN
Executive Headteacher