



# THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

## A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

03 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Re: Summer Examination Season 2021 for Years 11 and 13

I am writing to you about the news from the Government in the last 24 hours about further changes to examinations next summer. The Government are determined that examinations will actually take place, having previously announced that they will be delayed to give students extra time to prepare.

We are delighted that our wonderful students will have the opportunity to experience the challenge and personal satisfaction of working hard, preparing for examinations and savouring success. It is also the case that exams improve learning and better prepare students for the next stages of their journey.

In short:

- “Most” Exams in summer 2021 will be delayed by around 3 weeks
- Exams will be generously graded, as they were in 2020
- Advance warning of SOME topics to be examined will be given at the end of January
- Certain extra aids will be allowed in exams - an example could be a formula sheet in a Maths or Science exam
- There will be additional opportunities to retake exams for those who miss the main examination because of illness or self-isolation
- Some adaptations to BTEC to “ensure parity”

BUT:

- Exams will not be easier – do not listen to the poor quality reporting by the media
- If exams had to be cancelled, we would still rely on students’ work this year and mock results to help us to recommend a grade – as we did last year
- Students will be informed of SOME topics to be examined, NOT all and NOT the actual questions
- To get a given grade, students will still need to do better than the students awarded grades below them. For example, 4.2% of students nationally were awarded a grade 9 in Mathematics in 2020. Students will need to be in the top 4.2% nationally of marks this year to achieve a grade 9
- Level 3 courses next year will be based on the assumption that students finished their GCSE/BTEC courses this year

*The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to Mrs K Bones at [kbones@buckinghamsschool.org](mailto:kbones@buckinghamsschool.org), if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.*



Our Year 11 and Year 13 students are doing a fantastic job at the moment. We are going from strength to strength as a school and we are proud that our students are in a very strong position, compared to many other schools, because so many of them took the opportunities that we gave them to learn remotely during lockdown and have shown such commitment since September. In turn, our commitment is to continue our drive to provide your children with high quality teaching and exam preparation. We will continue to aim to ensure that Years 11 and 13 in particular are the least affected by the disruption that Covid-19 is currently causing us.

We look forward to seeing our Year 11 families at the Sixth Form Virtual Open Evening, this evening and again at the Virtual Parents Evening on 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Thank you, as ever, for your support.

Yours faithfully



**Mr A McGinnes**

Headteacher

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