



7th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are all well and safe. I would like to thank you all for supporting the school in the completion of the mock examinations that have just taken place. The students were dedicated and responded well to the challenge of a busy mock fortnight.

In the last three days the Department of Education have announced the changes that have been made to the examination system. I wanted to share the key points with you and the link is included below to the department announcement.

Many of the details, such as the topics that will be examined, the use of exam aids and the processes will not be announced until the new calendar year. We will be working to ensure that when these details are announced that our students have all the essential support to prevent any possible disadvantage to Avanti Hall students. I will communicate these to you all when we have more details.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extra-measures-to-support-students-ahead-of-next-summers-exams>

In summary:

- More generous grading than usual, in line with national outcomes from 2020.
- Students will receive advance notice of some topic areas covered in GCSEs, 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.
- Additional exams to give students a second chance to sit a paper if the main exams or assessments are missed due to illness or self-isolation.
- 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 single contingency paper per subject held shortly after the main exams. This will take place between 28 June to 16 July 2021 and timetabled to allow at least a 10-day gap after each subject's final paper in the main series. Work has started on writing this timetable.
- 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.
- Students who have been considered and approved by their school to take their exams at home will sit their exams under normal exam conditions specified by the awarding organisation if parents and students agree. This already happens in a very small number of cases each year.

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“Avanti Hall School” is an academy school within the trust, and is effectively a trading name of the trust.

This may cause a concern for students who wish to study over the Christmas break. We will endeavour to supply an overview of the planned syllabus for the Spring term for some knowledge based studies; the school Google Classroom continues to supply excellent links for exam preparation and revision techniques. It has been a long term and balance is required, and I hope you and your families can manage a restful festive period.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Arnold', is written on a white background with a light grid pattern.

Phil Arnold