

Saturday 21st March

Update on External Examinations for Year 11-13

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

We wanted to give you an update on the current announcements from the UK regarding the GCSE and A Level examinations. Please note that all of the information in this letter is at the time of writing and could be subject to change as the global situation progresses. (The link to the most current UK directive is here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/further-details-on-exams-and-grades-announced>)

What is the current situation?

As you will now be aware, the UK Department for Education confirmed the cancellation of all GCSE and A Level examinations due to take place in the UK this summer. This means that all those subjects at the English College following AQA UK and Pearson UK qualifications will no longer have an **external** examination to sit in the summer. To replace these exams, the examination boards will require us to submit a predicted grade for each student in each subject: i.e. a grade we believe the student would achieve if examinations were to go ahead as scheduled. We will obviously be required to justify these predictions with appropriate evidence. When there has been further clarification about this process, we will share this information. with you. The subjects affected by this announcement are:

GCSE (Year 11) Subjects UK		
AQA	Pearson	
Geography	Arabic	English Language, English Literature
Economics	Art, Craft & Design	History
French	Biology, Chemistry, Physics	Music
Further Mathematics	Business	Physical Education
Media Studies	Combined Science	
Psychology	Computer Science	
Spanish	Drama	

GCEs (Years 12 & 13) UK		
AQA	Pearson	
Computer Science AS & A2	Arabic A2	Physical Education AS & A2
French AS	Art, Craft & Design A2	Politics A2
Geography A2	Business AS & A2	Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)
Law AS	Economics AS & A2	Drama
Psychology AS & A2	English Language & Literature A2	
Sociology AS & A2	English Literature AS & A2	
Spanish AS	History AS & A2	

With regards to subjects who are following international GCSEs and A Levels from Pearson International and Oxford AQA, the directive is that these examinations **may** still go ahead if the UAE's climate is "safe" enough for students to complete them. As a College we will be seeking clarity over this announcement from the appropriate regulatory authorities. Again, we will keep you updated with any developments. The subjects which follow International GCSE (IGCSE) and A Levels (IAL) are:

GCSE (Year 11) Subjects International		
Oxford AQA International	Pearson International	
English Language	Arabic (First Language)	Mathematics
English Literature	German (2 Year 10 students)	Further Pure Mathematics

A Level (Year 12 and 13)

GCEs (Years 12 & 13) International		
Oxford AQA International		Pearson International
Biology AS & A2	Mathematics AS & A2 (Yr 13 only)	Mathematics (Yr 12 only)
Chemistry AS & A2	Further Mathematics AS & A2 (Yr 13 only)	

Physics AS & A2

For BTEC subjects, there has been no current announcement as of yet and it is assumed that, due to the coursework based nature of the course, that students will continue as normal. This would involve submitting work digitally which is how the students are used to working. Again if this situation should change, the College will update you.

What should our students do now?

The important message here is that all students in examination years commit fully to the distance learning programme provided by the teaching staff at EC. Whether there is an examination in the subject or not, we need to continue to deliver the content of the course: either to prepare students for an external examination in the subject or to be in a position to be able to give each student a predicted grade that is a true reflection of their achievement in that subject. Our staff will continue to deliver outstanding lessons online to ensure complete curriculum coverage. We will keep you updated with any developments regarding ongoing assessments and grading.

We understand that the uncertainties surrounding the examinations will cause stress to our students and we will update you as soon as we hear any new information. If you have any further questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact Dr Kahlaoui (Deputy Headteacher), Mr Idris (Head of Senior School), or Ms Campbell (Examinations Officer).

Kind regards.

Mark Ford