



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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16th October 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Re **your child's GCSE & A Level examinations**

We thought it sensible to write home to frame how STFS is responding to the recent news from the Government about the **proposed changes to the examination dates for GCSE and A Level examinations**. As you may be aware, the Government announced earlier this week that:

"Students now have more time to prepare for their exams next year, as most AS, A levels and GCSEs will be held 3 weeks later to help address the disruption caused by the pandemic. The Prime Minister and Education Secretary are clear that exams will go ahead, as they are the fairest and most accurate way to measure a pupil's attainment. Today (12th October), the government is announcing the summer exam series will start on 7th June and end on 2nd July for almost all AS and A levels and GCSEs. Results days are Tuesday 24th August for A and AS levels and Friday 27th August for GCSEs so students will start the following academic year as normal".

The full statement can be read here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/students-to-be-given-more-time-to-prepare-for-2021-exams>

The consultation on exam dates is now beginning and the detail of the plans are due to be developed over the next six weeks. We will await the detail of these plans before writing to you again with a timetable, and will couple this to more detailed planning for revision support and guidance for students.

What is key for us is that we, as a school, offer as much certainty and clarity for our students as possible at a time that is deeply uncertain. Please be reassured that we will do all in our power to protect the learning of GCSE and A Level students, to provide the structure, support and guidance that they require, and be reassured that their needs will take priority in any whole school decisions. Should the situation change again, we will inform you as promptly as possible.

For Year 11, the upcoming parents' evening on 21st October will provide an opportunity to reflect on progress so far, and to prepare for mock examinations in late November.

For Year 13, mock examinations begin on 2nd November. These examinations have been carefully calibrated to allow students and teachers to assess progress over the last months. They have been modified to reflect the challenges of home-based schooling and the grades from them will be part of a picture of progress, and will identify areas that students need to focus on in the coming weeks. Revision for these examinations is crucial, and students will be working with their subject teachers and tutors to be clear on content they need to revise, and exploring effective strategies for revision.



Year 13 students have today been informed of a plan to support some **limited home study** after the conclusion of mock examinations and the details of this will be sent home after half term. The criteria for this will be that students are up to date with work, and evaluated by their teachers as demonstrating learning behaviours that would indicate home study would be a success.

We hope that this gives some guidance about the response from the school. Please do get in touch with your child's tutor if there is anything further we can be doing to support them at this time.

Sincerely,

Matthew Pike
Head of Sixth Form

Mat Payne
Head of Year 11

