



Beaumont School

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Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your families are well. I am writing to update you about next summer's exam series, following on from an important announcement last week from the Department for Education. The announcement concerned various measures, which will be implemented to mitigate the uneven impact of Covid-related absence from school, including advance notification of topic areas to be covered in the public exams. You can find further information [here](#). We await further details in the new year about which subjects will be affected and how.

As you will be aware, next term we intend to hold mock exams for Year 13 students between 13th and 22nd January 2021. I can imagine that many students will be keen for us to respond to the DfE's announcement by informing them in advance of the topic areas for these internal exams, and it is entirely understandable for them to feel this way. We have come to the decision, however, that it is best for us to provide no more information than we would in a normal year. Our reasons for taking this view are as follows:

- We do not know at this stage which subjects will be affected by the new regulations.
- We do not know how detailed the advance information about topics will be.
- If we advised students of the mock exam topics in advance, they would be likely to revise more thoroughly for these aspects of the course. However, entirely different topics could be selected for the final exams, and our students would therefore be less well prepared for them. We want to maximise students' chances of success in the summer, no matter what is covered in the papers.
- In order to prepare students effectively for further study, it is important for them to learn the whole course securely. Narrowing down the content they revise at this early stage would be unhelpful.

Whilst we realise that this decision may come as a disappointment to students, we strongly believe that it is in the best interests of their education. We want the mock exams to be the most useful preparation for them and to provide us with the most comprehensive information about attainment, and I hope you can understand why we think this is the optimum way to achieve these aims.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish your son/daughter well at a very challenging time. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Mountstevens
Deputy Headteacher

