7th February 2022

Dear all

Advance Information for GCSE, AS and A level exams in 2022

I write to update you about the nature of the advance information, on the content of some GCSE, AS and A level exams, which the exam boards have published, 7 February 2022.

First, however, may I take this opportunity to thank you for everything you are doing to support your sons and daughters as they prepare for qualifications in these still challenging times.

As you are aware, given the unprecedented circumstances the first ever publication of advance information in general qualifications is a key adaptation to examinations, aiming to support students and teachers in focusing revision for exams. It is intended to make sure that we are being as fair as possible to students given the disruption they have experienced, and many continue to face, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The advance information spans over 300 qualification specifications. In normal times specifications for the same subject contain some differences between boards, within clearly defined parameters.

The advance information will reflect this to some degree as each of the materials has been tailored to the relevant subject and specification. In each case it has been carefully designed to support the same purpose: to provide appropriate guidance to teachers and students to focus revision. It is important for you and your students to know this process has been done with great care, following a set of common principles, to make sure the approach is as fair as possible across subjects and exam boards. This is explained in the exam boards’ guidance.

In some cases, for example, the information will provide a list of topics that will be the focus of the exam, or parts of it. In other cases, the information will identify a section of a set work (such as a text), and the extract used in the exam will be taken from this smaller section. Other approaches have been taken elsewhere. The differences you will notice are appropriate given the variety of specifications, and subjects being examined. Taken together, the information across all specifications you offer is quite detailed, although there will be a limited amount of information for each subject teacher to engage with.
Advanced information will be published on examination board public websites and on the college’s Connect site under each department.

Regards

Mike Hill
Principal