



Barr Beacon School
www.barrbeaconschool.co.uk

Our Ref: LD/DLE/cc/exams update

4th October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

The government has recently updated the information about exams that affect Year 11 and Year 13.

You can read the announcements in full on the [Department for Education website](#) but as the documents total more than 60 pages so we thought you would appreciate having the key points summarised:

- **The government is “firmly committed” to exams going ahead.**
- Exams in the same subject will be spaced a minimum of 10 days apart. E.g. Maths Paper 2 will come 10+ days after Maths Paper 1 with Paper 3 another 10+ days after that. Therefore, if someone has to isolate due to Covid for one they will at least have done the others.
- Some subjects with Non Examined Assessments (coursework) have already been adjusted. In addition, some subjects will have parts of their exams which are optional, although details of these have not yet been released.
- The government has made it clear **that all new content should be taught to pupils before 7th February 2022**. On this date, they will publish ‘Advance Information’ which will help pupils to focus their revision on particular content for most subjects. This date may be brought forward by the government if the country experiences additional disruption due to Covid.
- **Teacher Assessed Grades** like those used in 2021 will only be used as a last resort. We are being urged by the government to collect evidence for this in case we do need it and exams do not go ahead as planned. Specifically, the government has advised that all schools should schedule **three sets of mocks** between now and May. This was already our intention and we will be communicating with you the details of these throughout the year. Pupils need to be aware that these mock responses would determine their grade if Teacher Assessed Grades returned for 2022. Without putting undue pressure on your child, please echo everything we will be telling them about **the importance of treating these mocks as if they were the real thing.**

Thank you for the continued support.

Yours sincerely

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