



26th May, 2023

## Update on Exams Year 11 & 13

Dear Families,

Now that exams are underway I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the summer exam series.

We have been so impressed with all of the young people who have been sitting their external exams for the last few weeks. I recognise how nervous and difficult a time it can be for many, but we have seen some really calm and well prepared students heading into the exam halls each day. It is clear that the work that they have done for their mock exams, and the process itself has really prepared them effectively .

Students have been conducting themselves well, and making good use of the drop down sessions to help them prepare for each subject and paper as they progress through the series of exams. This will become even more crucial the further we get into the series as we remind them and support them with the requirements of each paper.

I would also like to reassure you about how these assessments are working this term, and how grading will work over the summer and what this means for you or your child.

### Ofqual guidance for students

In May, Ofqual published some useful guidance for students on the 2023 summer exam series – available [here](#). Ofqual is the exams regulator, which checks the systems and processes of individual exam boards.

### Grading in summer 2023

As exam papers are completed, exam boards will begin to mark them using the same mark schemes as were in place in 2019 and in 2022 (the last two years in which exams took place). The marks awarded will depend on the quality of the student's work.

Once all papers are marked, then exam boards will set grade boundaries. This year, Ofqual's decision is to return to a similar pattern of grade distribution as in 2019. Ofqual has put systems in place to ensure that nationally grades will not be lower than in 2019, even if the quality of work is slightly lower. In other words, a student has about the same chance as achieving a Grade 4 or Grade 7 or Grade 9, etc. at GCSE, or a Grade A\*, Grade C, etc. at A level, as they did before the pandemic.



This is the main way in which the exam boards are attempting to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by having lived through the pandemic. Again, this approach is the same across the country, and across all exam boards.

### University offers

UCAS, the organisation which coordinates students' applications to university, has worked in the normal way this year, and applicants will already have their offers.

### Contingency date

Please note that **Thursday 15 June** (afternoon only) and **Wednesday 28 June** (all day) are national exam contingency days, in case any exam has to be rescheduled. These dates have been shared a number of times with students and families and it is essential that students are available on these days and do not book holidays over this period, even if their last scheduled exam is over.

These dates hopefully won't be needed, but if they are, and students cannot attend due to holiday, they will not receive any marks for that paper.

### Half Term Sessions

For our Year 11 pupils there are a number of additional revision opportunities in school over the May Half term. These sessions are open to all students and will be tailored to the crucial learning that students need to know for their examinations. This will be a great opportunity to enhance students' own revision with support from subject specialists. Please see the schedule linked here:

[📅 Half Term Year 11 Revision](#)

### Arrangements for Results Days

A reminder that our Year 13 results day is on **Thursday 17th August** and our Year 11 results day is on **Thursday 24th August**. Please see our previous letters for more details.

- [Year 11](#)
- [Year 13](#)

### Student support

If you need any further support during the rest of the exam series, or have any questions please contact us via the usual house email addresses.

St Bernadette	St Catherine Laboure	St John Fisher	St Therese	Sixth Form
s_stbqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_stclqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_stjfqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_sttqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk	s_6frmqueries@stthomasmore.org.uk



We wish all our students the very best of luck with the rest of their exams.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs C Lennox  
**Deputy Head Teacher**

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