



# Tomlinscote School

3<sup>rd</sup> July 2020

Dear Year 10 Students, Parents and Carers

I promised to keep you in touch with the latest information from the DfE and Ofqual (exams regulator). Ofqual produced a consultation document regarding proposed changes to GCSEs for 2020-2021 and therefore it impacts current Year 10 students. The full consultation paper can be reached by clicking the link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/897137/Consultation\\_on\\_proposed\\_changes\\_to\\_the\\_assessment\\_of\\_GCSEs\\_AS\\_and\\_A\\_levels\\_in\\_2021\\_020620.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/897137/Consultation_on_proposed_changes_to_the_assessment_of_GCSEs_AS_and_A_levels_in_2021_020620.pdf)

I am really pleased that Ofqual are considering such measures to ensure that none of our students are prevented from fulfilling their potential by the pandemic. However, I would have liked a few more changes! I have summarised some of the key potential changes below:

## 1) Measures that would free up teaching time

In a few subjects, certain assessments have been set aside. For example:

- Computer Science will no longer have a 20 hour computer programming project.
- English Language recordings for spoken language will not occur and it can now be 1:1 with a teacher.
- Flexibility with prescribed Science practicals.
- Art & Design will just be based on the portfolio of work and not the exam.

## 2) Measures that would reduce content

- History – the use of optional topics and one mandatory topic so that not all of the History topics need to be taught.
  - Geography – All questions relating to fieldwork will be taken out of the exam.
  - There are proposed changes to some content for Drama, Food Preparation & Nutrition, Music, and PE. These are outlined at the end of the consultation document.
- It looks like the length of exams will not change.

## 3) Exam timetable

- There is a possibility that GCSE exams will not start until 7<sup>th</sup> June and the Results Day may be pushed further back in August/September. This will extend teaching and revision time to the Summer half term.

These are only proposals at the moment and it is a consultation document. There is an opportunity to respond, using the link on page 4 of the document, if you wish to do so. I am pleased that measures to support Year 11 next year are going to be implemented. We can now plan our curriculum and provide additional interventions ourselves for the Autumn Term.

I will keep you informed of any future changes.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Major  
Principal