

14 February 2022

Dear Student and Parent/Carer

Re: Summer Examinations 2022 and Advance Information

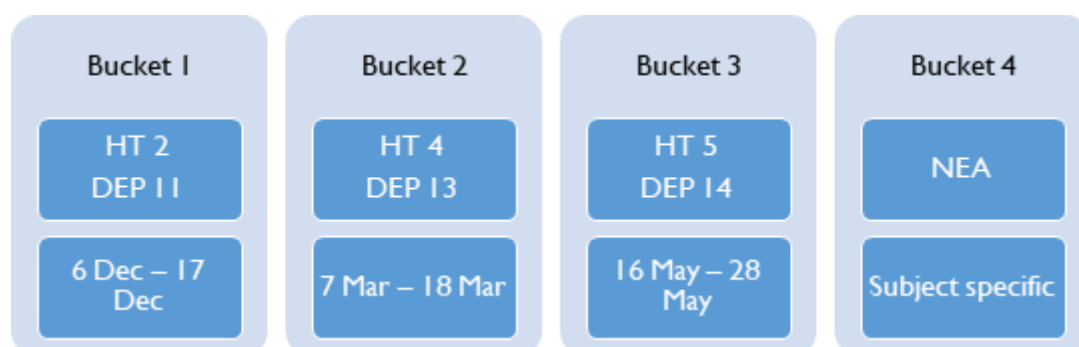
As I write this letter, there are 48 college days remaining until the summer examination season begins on Monday 16 May. This should provide staff and students at Elliott Hudson College with a catalyst to really drive commitment to academic study and effective revision over the coming weeks. The journey for students in Year 13 to reach this point has been challenging due to the pandemic however, in both our personal and professional lives, things are returning to something that feels more ordinary.

Summer Examinations 2022

I, therefore, have increasing confidence that students will sit external examinations this summer. The emergence of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 in December did place some doubt as to whether examinations would be tenable in the summer of 2022. However, as this wave of infection begins to subside, the government are unwavering in their determination that external examinations will take place this summer. This provides a welcome clarity for us all and it means that both students and the staff at Elliott Hudson College are able to focus all of our attentions towards **'Plan A – summer examinations go ahead'**.

Plan B – Teacher-awarded grades

The government have not been able to instruct school and college leaders to abandon 'Plan B – teacher awarded grades'. The risk, however, of needing to implement this plan is significantly diminished as we emerge from the Omicron wave. We shared our proposals for 'Plan B' back in the autumn term so that all students were clear on how teachers might formulate their grades, if they were asked to, in the event of external examinations being cancelled. A template for this can be seen below - please note that this template did vary from subject to subject based upon specific curriculum needs.



Bucket 1 – the December mock examination – was sat just before the Christmas break. With the reduced risk of needing to instigate Plan B, Bucket 2 – a mock examination due to be sat in March – will now be sat in classrooms. Hosting examinations in formal examination rooms places significant pressure on college resources and causes a loss of teaching time, which can no longer be justified given the decreased likelihood of needing Plan B. Therefore, students will now sit DEP 13 in classrooms, as per our standard assessment procedures.

Advance Information

All examination boards have provided teachers and students with advance information about their summer examinations.

Advance information is new for 2022. It's part of the package of support available for the summer examinations this year, in recognition of the disruption that the pandemic has had upon education. The aim of advance information is to help guide and prioritise revision. It will provide information about the focus of the content of examinations in summer 2022.

Advance information can help guide and prioritise revision. For example, advance information for some subjects may let students know that one part of the assessment will focus on a reduced range of specification content. Examination boards are clear that revision plans should cover all aspects of the course in order to ensure the best possible performance in examinations. Advance information will not necessarily cover all aspects of specification content that will be assessed in the 2022 examinations and therefore should be used to support students in prioritising their revision.

Teachers have spent significant time over the past week evaluating this information and adapting their lessons and assessments for the remainder of the year. Teachers will be clear with students on what the focus of their revision should be and on what they need to revise for any upcoming internal assessments. If teachers have made amendments to the content of Plan B 'buckets' based upon this advance information, they will share this with students so that they are supported in preparing to perform at their best during these internal assessments.

As I have previously stated, I'm increasingly confident that students will sit external examinations this summer and therefore our approach over the coming weeks must focus our efforts in preparing students as best as we can for this outcome. I hope that what I've outlined in this communication provides assurances in our approach.

Best wishes



Lee Styles
Principal