

Mount St. Joseph

"A community of Learners, Believers and Friends"

Greenland Road • Farnworth
Bolton • BL4 0HT
Tel: 01204 391800
Fax: 01204 389575

Website: www.msj.bolton.sch.uk
e-mail: reception@msj.bolton.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs A Devany

30th January 2024



Dear students, parents, and carers,

Re: **2024 Examinations & Ofqual Student Guide**

Below you will find a link to a student guide regarding the 2024 GCSE series. Please read this carefully and familiarise yourself with the information, prior to the exams starting in May.

[Ofqual Student Guide 2024](#)

The government, the exams regulator Ofqual and the exam boards have confirmed the following:

At a national level, grades will be in line with grades in 2019 i.e. pre-pandemic levels.

However, unlike 2023 there will now be no "safety net" so students must be fully prepared for their exams by carrying out independent study at home, in addition to their work in school and attendance to period 7.

This means that, generally speaking, students have the same chance of getting a grade 9 or 5 at GCSE, as in 2019. Exams in vocational and technical qualifications will also return to a 2019 grade profile.

Formula sheets will be provided in the GCSE maths, physics and combined sciences exams, meaning that students will not need to memorise these formulae or equations to use in these exams.

Advanced information will not be provided so students will need to learn and revise the whole specification as normal. Any topic could come up in the exam.

If a student has studied the whole course but is ill during the exam period they may be able to receive a grade by sitting one paper in the qualification rather than the previous rule of 25% of the assessment, although certification of illness will be needed. In most qualifications, there is at least a week between the first and last exam paper to ensure that if students are ill for one paper they are able to sit another. However missing any paper will cause students to get a much lower grade overall.

The exam timetable contains 3 contingency sessions on the afternoons of 6 and 13 June, and all day on 26 June. These sessions would be used in the unlikely event that an exam had to be moved nationally because it could not take place when planned. You must be available for all 3 contingency sessions, even if you do not have exams scheduled on that day.



Further information can be found in the Ofqual student guide.

It should be noted that any malpractice will be dealt with in accordance with the rules set out by JCQ and Ofqual and is likely to result in disqualification from that exam and often from the whole series.

Malpractice involves some form of wrongdoing. Examples include:

- sharing answers
- impersonation
- leaking exam papers or other assessment materials
- swapping scripts
- inappropriate use of artificial intelligence (AI) in non-exam assessments such as the use of chatbots
- smuggling information or taking mobile phones and communication devices into exam hall or rooms

To be clear, you must not wear a watch in the exam or take a mobile phone, or any type of headphones into the exam hall with you, as doing so will also be treated as malpractice. All watches of any type, mobile phones and ear pods etc. must be stored in your bag away from you whilst you sit the exam.

All work submitted as part of exams and assessments must be your own work; submitting any work that is not your own is malpractice.

It should be noted that incidences of Malpractice are very rare and that exams conducted so far with the class of 2024 have been outstanding in their conduct.

Please ensure you read the student handbook and if you have any questions please ask either Mr Drummond, Mrs Egerton or myself.

I would also like to take the opportunity to wish all our students the very best of luck in their upcoming exams. I know you will make every effort to prepare effectively to ensure you reach your potential and get the very best grades to give you a secure future.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Henshaw

Deputy Headteacher