



Backwell School

An Ofsted Outstanding School
A National Teaching School

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Dear Parent/Carer

Summer 2019 Exams – Contingency Day

GCSE and A-level exams may seem like a long way away at the moment, but we have been informed of an important change that we need to share with you to avoid any possible issues next summer.

The summer formal written exams usually run from early May and into June. However, 2019 will be different. For the first time a contingency exam day has been arranged by the exam boards in case of “sustained national or local disruption”.

The decision comes following recent tragic events such as the Manchester attacks and the Grenfell Tower fire. The Joint Council for Qualifications have decided that they need the option to postpone an exam in the event of an incident and rearrange for a later date.

The date that has been set aside as the contingency day is **Wednesday, 26 June 2019**. This means that **all exam candidates** must be available to sit exams from the start of the season in May until Wednesday 26 June 2019.

This decision is not a school decision and applies to all candidates in all schools.

Please can all parents/carers make a note of the new contingency exam date. It will be common and completely understandable for many families of Year 11 and Year 13 students to book holidays in June and July, when their child has finished their exams and before the schools break up for the summer. However, it would be devastating for a student to miss out on a good grade after working hard for two years because they might be absent from a postponed final exam.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Conkie
Deputy Headteacher