

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**Jennifer Best**  
UKAT Executive Principal  
Deputy CEO

Brompton Academy  
Marlborough Road  
Gillingham  
Kent  
ME7 5HT

T : 01634 852341  
E : [office@bromptonacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@bromptonacademy.org.uk)  
W : [www.bromptonacademy.org.uk](http://www.bromptonacademy.org.uk)

A University of Kent Academies Trust School

Dear Parents and Carers

## Re: Year 11 Summer Examinations and Support

I am writing to you regarding this summer's Year 11 examinations and the support available from the academy.

Students sitting their GCSE and BTEC examinations in the summer of 2022 are facing the most significant impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, having had the vast majority of their studies disrupted by lockdowns, teacher and student absences due to self-isolations, and restrictions imposed by school-based safety plans such as year group 'bubbles'. This year's Year 11 cohort will be the first to sit a full series of examinations since 2019, with national results league tables also returning this year after being suspended for two years. There will be no 'Teacher Assessed Grades' (TAGs) provided by schools, and no way of appealing grade decisions.

There has been much national debate as to whether the Government's decision to re-instate 'normal' practices so soon is appropriate, given that the country is still only slowly recovering from this period of unprecedented upheaval, whilst COVID-19 continues to remain a very real challenge for many. To address these concerns, the Department for Education announced in February that the content of some subjects' examination papers would be reduced in order to limit the amount of information students would be required to study and recall.

Despite these adaptations, we understand that this scenario poses a significant challenge for students, with in-year assessment data across the country already emphasising a gap between students' performance compared to previous years using target grades set by the Government before COVID-19. We also understand that students and their families are faced with huge decisions to make regarding their next steps, be these into our own UKAT Sixth Form or college, against the backdrop of these uncertain results.

We are very proud of the dedication, commitment and resilience our students have shown over the past two years and I want to emphasise how hard the academy has worked to provide support at every stage of this ever-changing situation. I want to also assure you that over the coming weeks we will continue to do all we can to help students achieve their best, and when results arrive in August we will be here to celebrate our students' successes and to offer guidance and advice to secure their next steps. Below is also the link to our Year 11 website page support: <https://www.bromptonacademy.org.uk/year-10-and-11-information>

For students who have applied for, or expressed an interest in, our UKAT Sixth Form, we will work with each of them to look carefully at contextualised offers, where appropriate, to ensure as many students as

possible can continue to study with us on courses that are right for them. For students planning to go elsewhere, we will be on hand to provide as much assistance as we can to get them where they want to be.

Finally, I would like to thank all of our parent and carers for their continued support, feedback and patience as we continue to recover from the pandemic and look forward to a brighter future.

If you have any questions or would like any support, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Personal Tutor or Dan Greenwood, Assistant Principal – Head of Year 11, at the academy.

Yours faithfully

Jennie Best

Executive Principal

Deputy CEO



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