



6<sup>th</sup> July 2020

## **OFQUAL CONSULTATION**

Dear parent/carer of and student in Year 10 or 12

I am writing to make you aware that Ofqual (the exams regulator) has published a consultation that may well be of interest to parents of and students in the current Year 10 and 12. This is because the consultation relates to proposed changes to the way some GCSEs, AS and A levels regulated by Ofqual should be examined in summer 2021 and to the arrangements for non-exam assessments undertaken by students who will be taking exams next summer.

In writing at this point in the academic year, although I understand that you may not rush to read the 59 pages that make up the consultation document, I want parents and learners to have the opportunity to make their views known to the regulator, should they wish. I also wish to reassure you that we will pay due attention to the adaptations made to exams if adopted to ensure we support our students to prepare as best they can. I do hope that the news that there will likely be some adaptations to the examinations and the exams season next summer will provide some reassurance that the disruption of the past few weeks will be taken into account in order to mitigate against the disruption caused by COVID-19.

The proposals are made in the context of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic which has clearly resulted in loss of education during the spring and summer terms of the academic year 2019/2020. In line with the government's policy intentions, Ofqual is still planning for exams and assessments to be taken by students next year.

In summary, Ofqual is seeking views on their proposals to change the assessment requirements for some subjects to:

- free up teaching time and, in some instances, reduce what needs to be taught; and
- take account of any public health restrictions relating to coronavirus (COVID-19) that might be in place during the next academic year.

The consultation includes proposals and questions on the following areas:

- adaptations to exams and assessments that could free up teaching time
- adaptations to exams and assessments to address obstacles that could be created by any public health safeguards



# South Dartmoor Community College

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- sampling of subject content
- the use of more optional questions in exams
- changing the length of exams
- changing the exam timetable

Please bear in mind that these are proposals and have not yet been adopted.

The consultation document can be found following this link:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-changes-to-the-assessment-of-gcses-as-and-a-levels-in-2021>

The opportunity to respond to the consultation can be found here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/QTD271/> The consultation closes at 11:45pm on 16th July.

The outcome of the consultation will be published in August and rest assured I will give you all of the detail I can as we begin the next academic year as to how we will support our children to prepare for these examinations.

Yours sincerely

Emma Dixon  
Deputy Headteacher