



6 February 2021

Dear Fifth Form Boys and Parents/Guardians,

I hope this finds you safe and well.

### IGCSE Update

Following the news that the IGCSE exams offered by Pearson Edexcel will not go ahead as planned, the position of CAIE has changed to say that they are also looking at switching from exams to an approach based on teacher assessment. We are expecting an update on their position next week.

By way of summary, the table below shows which subjects are offered by each awarding body at Bedford School.

<i>Qualification</i>	<i>Awarding Body</i>	<i>Subjects</i>	<i>Current Position</i>
IGCSE	Pearson Edexcel	Biology; Chemistry; Chinese; Dual Science; English Language; English Literature; History; Physics	Students will not sit exams, alternative mode of teacher assessment likely to be confirmed week commencing 22 February 2021
	CAIE	French; German; Spanish; English as a Second Language; DT	Looking at switching from exams to an approach based on teacher assessment
GCSE	AQA, OCR, Pearson Edexcel	Art; Ancient History; Computer Science; Drama; Geography; Latin; Mathematics; Music; Religious Studies	Students will not sit exams, alternative mode of teacher assessment likely to be confirmed week commencing 22 February 2021

This update should not affect boys' current preparation, coursework or approach to learning in these subjects, but has altered our timetable for the March Preparation Assessments.

### March Preparation Assessments

The provisional timetable for the March preparation assessments can be found on Firefly [here](#). Boys working in or beyond GMT+6 time zones will have revised times for those assessments scheduled for the afternoon in the UK, but the sequence of assessments will remain the same. Further details will follow on the arrangements of completing the assessments.

Following the update on IGCSE, most Fifth Form subjects will now be running a shorter paper during these preparation assessments and teachers will be giving more information on the format and content of the assessments to boys over the coming days. This information will be updated on the Firefly site as it is confirmed.

## Information Event

As advertised in last week's bulletin, on **Tuesday 9 February** we will be running an information event between 5.00pm and 5.45pm, in which we will hope to answer some of the questions you may have about the qualifications arrangements for this summer. There will be opportunities to ask questions during the event, but please use [this form](#) to submit questions in advance. We will make every effort to have them answered during the event.

There will also be an equivalent event for international boys and families on **Wednesday 10 February** between 7.30am and 8.15am. Questions can be submitted in advance via [this form](#).

These information events will take place via Zoom, and the meeting details are given below. At the start of the meeting, we will ask attendees to mute their microphones. If you have specific questions about your individual situation, we recommend you contact your Tutor.

Finally, please may I draw your attention to the notice in the bulletin from Mrs Martin-Merchant about checking your qualification entries carefully.

With best wishes,



**Sam Baldock**  
Deputy Head Academic

<b>Information Event for Fifth Form Boys and Families on Tuesday 9 February</b>	<b>Information Event for International Boys and Families on Wednesday 10 February</b>
Panel: Mr James Hodgson (Head Master) Mr Sam Baldock (Deputy Head, Academic) Mr Chris Prior (Academic Year Head)	Panel: Mr James Hodgson (Head Master) Mr Sam Baldock (Deputy Head, Academic) Dr Aurora Chen (Chinese Co-ordinator)
Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://zoom.us/j/91610685163">https://zoom.us/j/91610685163</a>	Join Zoom Meeting <a href="https://zoom.us/j/91516959679">https://zoom.us/j/91516959679</a>
Meeting ID: 916 1068 5163 One tap mobile +16699009128,,91610685163# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,91610685163# US (Tacoma)	Meeting ID: 915 1695 9679 One tap mobile +16699009128,,91516959679# US (San Jose) +12532158782,,91516959679# US (Tacoma)
Dial by your location +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)	Dial by your location +1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose) +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma) +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC) +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 346 248 7799 US (Houston) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)
Meeting ID: 916 1068 5163 Find your local number: <a href="https://zoom.us/u/adirAySsm8">https://zoom.us/u/adirAySsm8</a>	Meeting ID: 915 1695 9679 Find your local number: <a href="https://zoom.us/u/abCwhNI miV">https://zoom.us/u/abCwhNI miV</a>
Join by Skype for Business <a href="https://zoom.us/skype/91610685163">https://zoom.us/skype/91610685163</a>	Join by Skype for Business <a href="https://zoom.us/skype/91516959679">https://zoom.us/skype/91516959679</a>