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Dear Parent/Carer

Year 11 GCSE History

I am writing to inform you about changes that have been made to the 2021 GCSE History exam, which our current Year 11 cohort will be sitting in the summer of 2021.

Ofqual and Pearson Edexcel, our exam boards, have notified all schools in England that schools must choose one topic that students will no longer be examined on. The basis for their decision was about lost time due to COVID-19 and the amount of content in the GCSE History curriculum that students would need to catch up on. This is a decision that will apply to all GCSE History students across England and will not disadvantage Ely College students. Pearson Edexcel and Ofqual have stated that all GCSE History students in England must sit the Modern Depth Study (paper 3), which for us is the topic 'Weimar and Nazi Germany Depth Study: 1918-1939'. Our students at Ely College are currently learning this topic in class, starting upon our return in September. We have decided that our current Year 11 cohort will not be examined on Cold War in the summer of 2021. Our reasons for this decision are the following:

- This unit was due to be taught in January 2021, this means no time will have been lost by Ely students.
- This will give us more time to conduct revision starting in February that will focus on the other two topics that were covered in Year 9 and 10.
- The Cold War paper also contains three unique question types not seen on any of the other papers, whereas the other three topics sees a repeated use of the same question stems; which we think will give students a better chance for success.

To conclude, entry for the 2021 exams will be in the form of three exams still, but one of those exams will now be shorter. The three topics that we will be covering are detailed below. Pearson Edexcel do not have an option of doing all four topics.

- **Paper 1: Medicine in Britain 1250 - Present Day and Medicine in the Trenches**
- **Paper 2: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1060 – 1088**
- **Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 - 1939**

Looking ahead, mock exams will be in November, and the topic for history is Anglo Saxon and Norman England. We will then have a mock for Weimar Germany in the spring term. Should you have any further questions please email or ask at parents' evening next Tuesday.

Yours faithfully

Mr R Hancock
Subject Leader History