

Exams 2021

We do not yet have the final decisions but this is what has been proposed ...

Exams will be based upon your teachers' judgements



So your teachers can grade you using all the evidence they have.



But we have decided this evidence will be exam performance.



The reason for this decision is that it is fair and not open to interpretation.



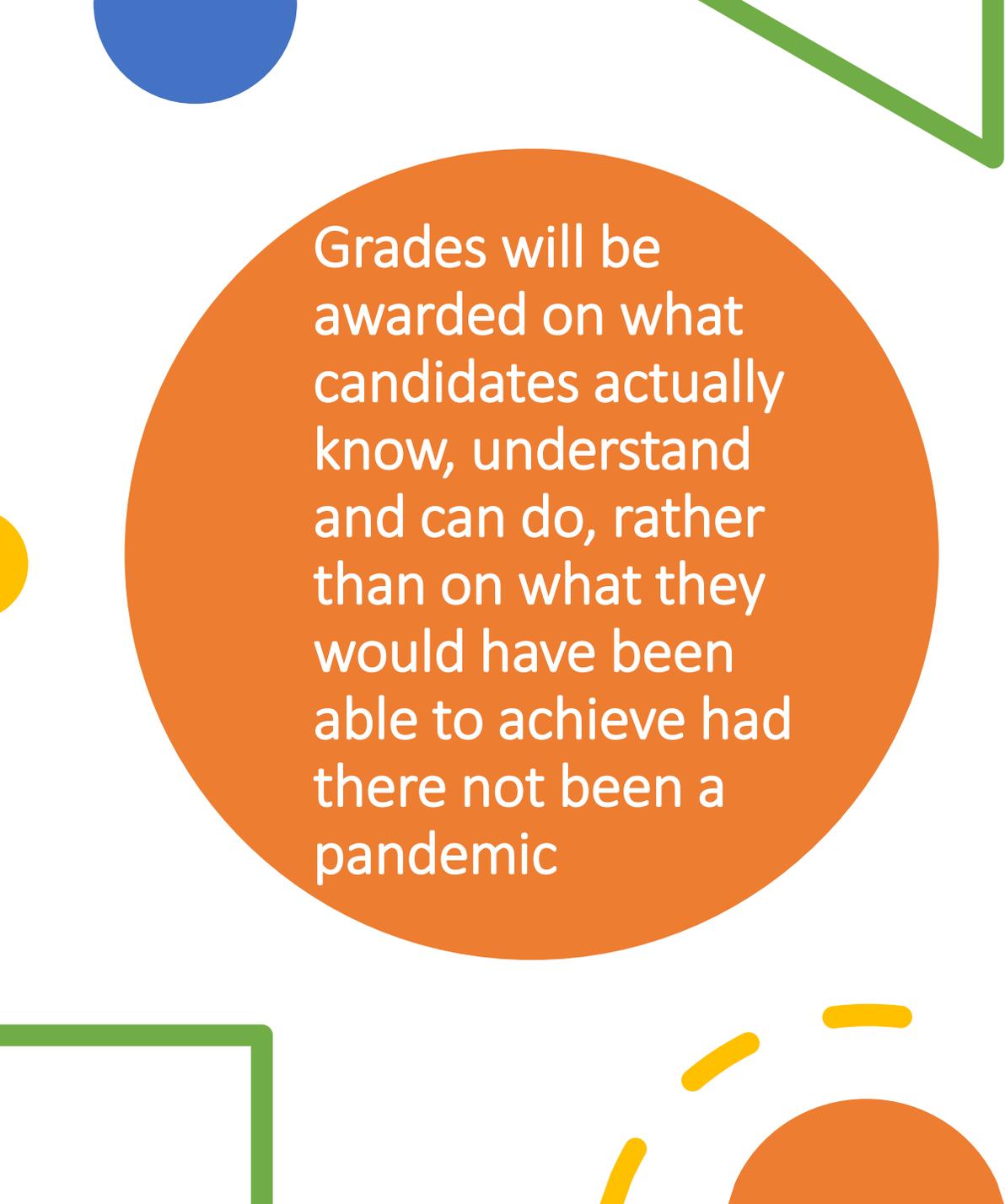
It also means that all of the hard work you have put in so far will not have been wasted.

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So keep it going ...

The work you do now will help you in your exams.

It will also help you with your ranking – if you start to gain H & N codes, your exam result will still stand but your ranking will be lower.



Grades will be awarded on what candidates actually know, understand and can do, rather than on what they would have been able to achieve had there not been a pandemic

So we must cover the whole course but this is a good thing because of your excellent work ethic and engagement during the lockdowns.

We moved to live lessons straight away and you will now benefit.

The rest of the country might have gaps - you do not.





We have already decided that you will sit Ferndown Finals.

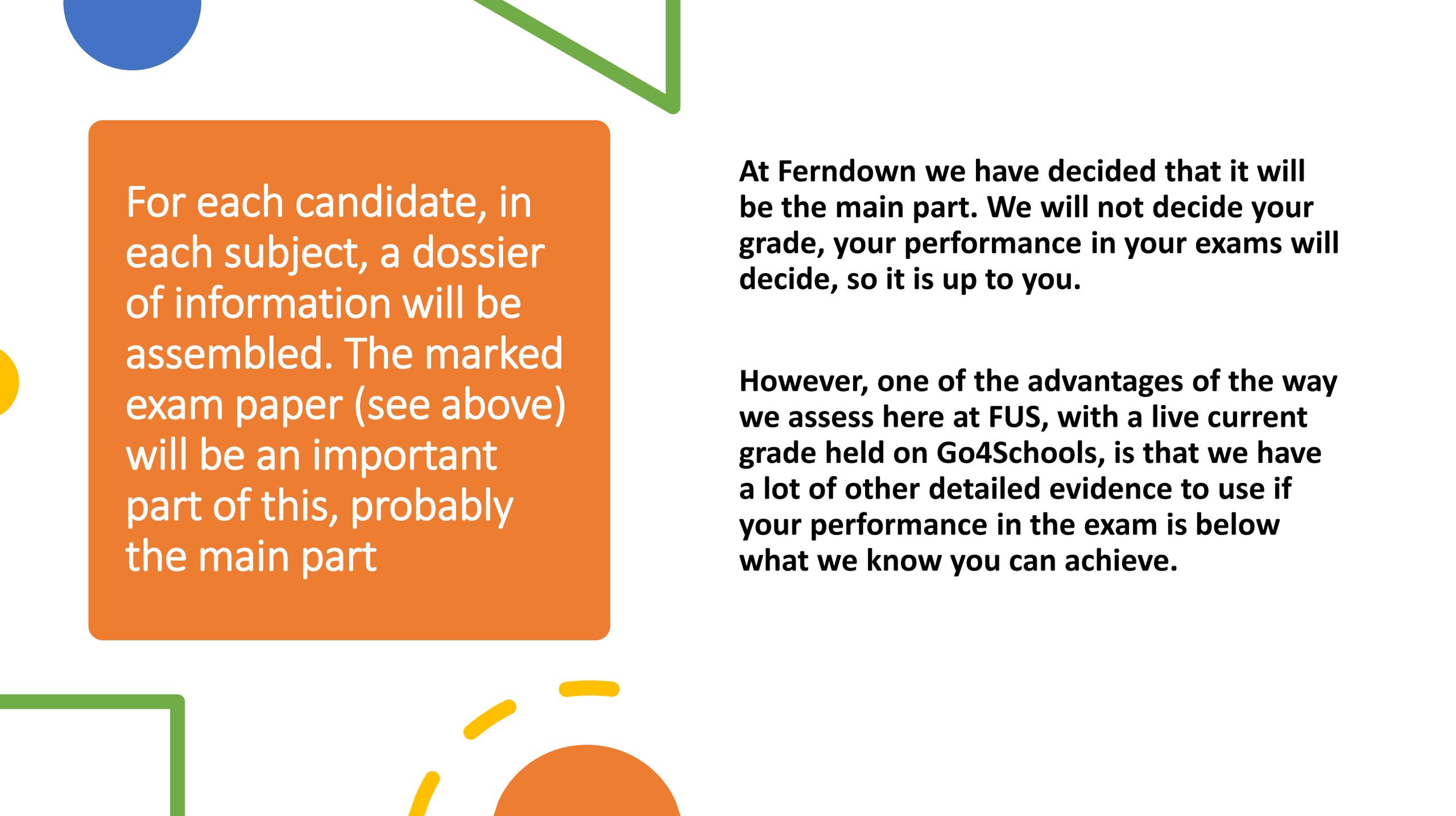


Your teachers will decide upon the questions that these exam papers will contain. These papers will not be as big as standard GCSE papers.



So while we can use or adapt these exam board papers – we can ensure that the papers you sit are fair.

Exam boards will provide question papers which may – or must – be used by schools. They will be marked by teachers in the school



For each candidate, in each subject, a dossier of information will be assembled. The marked exam paper (see above) will be an important part of this, probably the main part

At Ferndown we have decided that it will be the main part. We will not decide your grade, your performance in your exams will decide, so it is up to you.

However, one of the advantages of the way we assess here at FUS, with a live current grade held on Go4Schools, is that we have a lot of other detailed evidence to use if your performance in the exam is below what we know you can achieve.

The dossier could also include other work, such as a marked mock paper

Previous data will only ever be used to raise the grade, never to take it down.

So we could use the November mock results for this safety net.

Exam boards will check on the methods which schools are using to reach their decisions. They will also sample individual dossiers



THIS WAS MY
BIGGEST
CONCERN.



LAST YEAR THE
INTENDED ALGORITHM
MEANT WE WERE TOLD
HOW MANY OF EACH
GRADE WE COULD
ALLOCATE, WHICH WAS
NOT FAIR.



BUT IT HAS BEEN
PROMISED THAT NO
ALGORITHM WILL
BE USED THIS YEAR.

Once the exam board is satisfied, you will be told your grades. There will be a results day. If you believe your work has been graded wrongly, you may appeal



The school will then appoint an independent person to reassess the dossier concerned. This may result in the grade going up or down.



A further appeal would also be possible. This would be to the exam board and would not involve your dossier of work, but a check on whether the school had followed the correct procedures.



There will also be the opportunity to sit exams in the autumn.

In Summary



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The intended mocks (for Y11 and Y13) that were scheduled for after half term have now been rescheduled and will become the 'Ferndown Finals' and will dovetail with you returning to school.

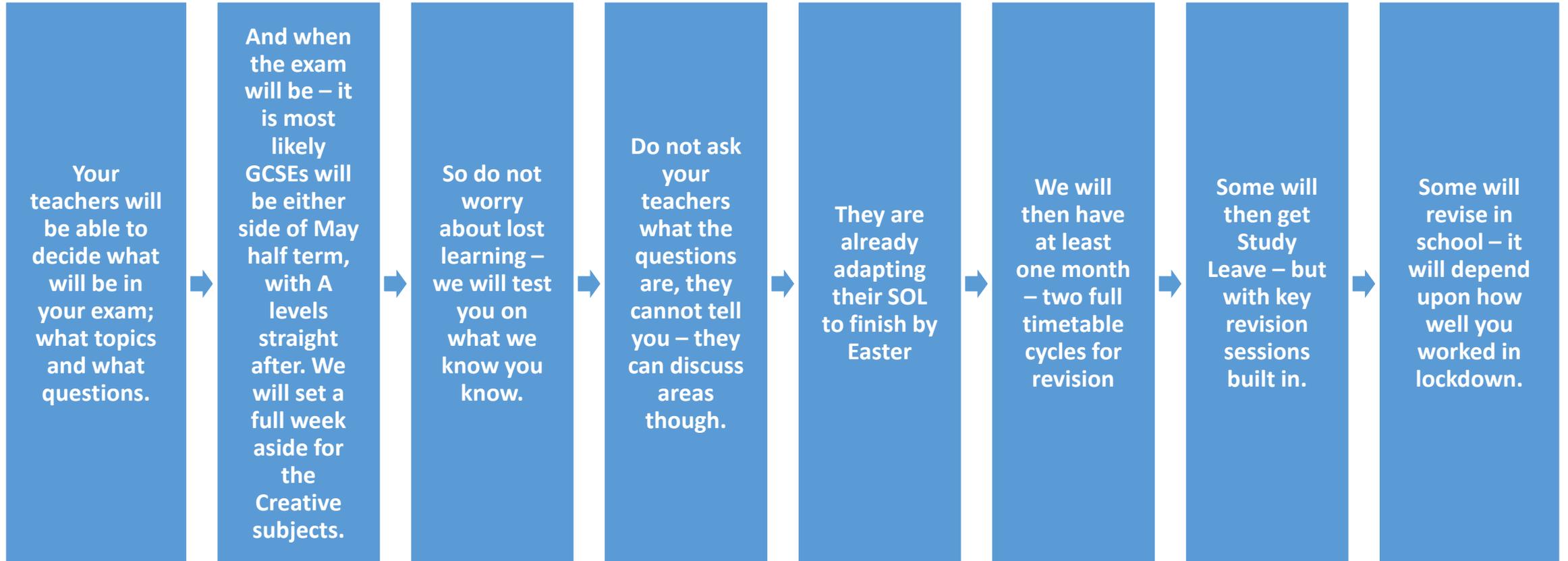
02

Ferndown Finals will be sat at the best time for you and with the added safety net of your Go4Schools record, which includes the mock exams before Christmas, if you do not perform to your full potential.

03

However if you have a bad day in an exam, then we will use our other data to justify awarding a higher grade, so we will only use data like the Nov mock if a safety net is required. You cannot discuss this with your teacher.

Timeline



What to revise?



Your teachers will start to deliver revision that will increase in intensity.



Ask them for SOL or topic checklists.



Start using past papers to prepare.



And if you are
worried ...

Just ask us