



**MERCHANT  
TAYLORS'  
SCHOOLS**

For Boys and Girls  
aged 4 to 18 years

30<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Summer 2019 Examinations – Contingency Day**

The summer 2019 examinations may seem like a long way away at the moment, but we need to share some important information to avoid any issues next June. During the spring term, students will be given individual timetables which will inform them of when their final written examinations will take place. Written examinations usually run from the middle of May to the end of June. However 2019 will be different. Students will still receive their timetables but for the first time a contingency examination day has been arranged by the examination boards and added to each student's timetable.

The contingency day has been arranged for "GCSE and/or GCE examinations, should sustained national or local disruption arise during the June 2019 examination series." The decision comes following the tragic events of last summer, namely the Manchester attacks and the Grenfell Tower fire. The Joint Council for Qualifications have decided they need the option to postpone an examination in the event of an incident and rearrange for a later date to allow all students a fair and equal chance.

The date set aside for the contingency examination day is **Wednesday 26th June 2019** and examinations may be rescheduled anytime up to that day. Awarding bodies will not accept a pre-booked holiday as a valid excuse for missing a written examination. With this in mind, may I please encourage all parents and carers to make a note of the new reserve examination date and ensure availability; it would be devastating for a student to miss out on a good grade after working hard for two years because they might be absent from a rearranged final examination. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

**Jeanette Blease**  
**Examinations Officer and Access Arrangements Assessor**