

JANUARY 2022 EDITION #7

Hello again! Welcome to the January 2022 issue of our newsletter! We hope you enjoy this edition, please feel free to provide feedback, good or bad.

A message from our CEO...



Happy New Year!

We trust you all had a wonderful festive period and didn't overdo it! Here at T&E HQ it's been non-stop, although all our staff have managed to take some time off to re-charge the batteries for what is likely to be an interesting 2022 exam year. We are, as ever, optimistic even more so as we welcome our new centres to the fold: [Taunton](#), [High Wycombe](#) and [Belfast](#). With eight exam centres nationwide, 65% of the UK population is now within a 30-mile radius of one of our centres, each providing access to quality assessments to all private candidates outside of mainstream education seeking an exam centre.

In addition to our exam centres, we now have five Science laboratory facilities across England to support learners with their A Level Practical Endorsements, providing you with opportunity to undertake in the A Level CPAC (Common Practical Assessment Criteria).

We have our all year round [Birmingham Science Facility](#) (available for block or flexible bookings) based in the heart of England.

Two amazing facilities now cover the South East, [South Bank UTC](#) and [Harrow School](#). Both facilities are available during school holidays and can also be block booked.

The North-West is now serviced by our newly created relationship with [Bolton School](#). This centre is ideal for candidates located in and around the Liverpool and Manchester area wishing to progress with their Science A Level CPAC.

Finally, the North-East/East Midlands is now covered by our newly formed partnership with Mercia School in [Sheffield](#). Just a short journey from the East and North-East of the country to give you the flexibility you need to access a JCO approved A Level Science CPAC facility. To find out more about our locations, [just click here](#).

We are currently working on several projects with leading stakeholders in the exam world. Our vision is to ensure that every private candidate has access to a quality assessment venue across the world and as a result have established Tutors & Exams South Africa and Tutors & Exams International. More information on these two exciting developments later next year.

Presently, we are gearing up in readiness for the Summer 2022 exam season with entries already being made by candidates. As we prepare for Summer exams we are also conducting [Pearson Edexcel International GCSE](#) exams throughout January.

On the topic of Summer 2022 exams; there are a few issues we know will be of concern to many of you. Firstly, "what if exams get cancelled?". Well, the English government is assuring everybody that exams will go ahead as planned, and this remains their preferred option. However, details on the '[Decisions on contingency arrangements 2022: GCSE, AS, A Level, Project and AEA](#)' have been released. This is in addition to an [open letter from Ofqual to Private Candidates](#). Whilst this open letter is welcome it is light on the precise arrangements that will apply to Private Candidates in the event exams are cancelled. Consequently, we have approached the DfE seeking greater clarity and will update you as soon as we have further guidance.

More details on [Guidance on Contingency Arrangements](#) can be found in the link. But, for now, we ask you all to continue with learning, study, revision and teaching as if exams are proceeding as planned. We are more than happy to provide mock exams for learners throughout their study, please [Contact Us](#) through your normal channels if you would like to discuss options.

Tutors & Exams are well placed to serve the Private Candidate community should exams be cancelled. We have led the way over the last two years working with the DfE, Ofqual, The JCQ, Awarding Organisations and key stakeholders. Our processes are robust and have been accepted and endorsed throughout the pandemic. We will ensure that we adapt where necessary and continue to safeguard Private Candidates assessments regardless of the government decisions. Please bear in mind that the announcements referred to are for English Ofqual Accredited Qualifications only. They do not include Pearson and Cambridge International A Levels and International GCSE. We will keep you informed on their decisions as and when they are announced.

We are keeping our centres safe ready for exams going ahead. Our teams are regularly taking Lateral Flow Tests and working from home where regulations allow. We continue to sanitise our offices and exam areas regularly. All of our staff are 100% up to date with their [vaccines and boosters](#). We do ask that if you are visiting our centres you follow our advice and notices as well as [government advice and legislation](#). We do ask that you wear a facemask in the public areas of our buildings up to the point of sitting at a desk. Maintain social distancing where possible. Regularly clean your hands. Please take a [Lateral Flow Test](#) prior to every visit. Your safety is as important as the safety of our staff and everyone around us. Please be patient and understanding.

So, 2021 has gone! 2022 what can we do? We want to hear how we can improve, change, make life easier or hear about the good things we do. We want to know how we can present information more clearly to you. If you want to give us your feedback or work with us on improving things, then please get in touch by emailing feedback@tutorsandexams.uk.

2022 will be a significant year for everyone at Tutors & Exams. We hope that you will be with us on the journey, and we can be part of yours.

Wishing you all every success (whatever shape that may be in) for the future.

Chris Spraggett, Group CEO

Science Practical Assessments - *STOP PRESS*

We have now received confirmation from all Awarding Organisations that we can accept a declaration off students who are wishing to take GCSE Sciences for Summer 2022 ONLY, that they have completed their practical's via demonstrations and simulations if it is not possible to carry them out in hands on sessions.

Therefore we can accept entries for Summer 2022 only.

We are delighted to now offer five locations for the delivery of Science Practical's - Birmingham, two in London, Bolton and Sheffield.

With our dedicated Science laboratory based in Birmingham, we have the ability to deliver A Level Science practical's all year round (consecutive four-day course for each subject). We also have access to science laboratories located in four schools available to offer Science practical's outside of term time.

We have been approved by the JCQ to carry out the 12 Science Practical's for the A Level CPAC's (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) for the following Awarding Bodies - Pearson, OCR, Eduqas and AQA. For further information please visit our website, link below which gives further details including dates, cost and how to book.

<https://www.tutorsandexams.uk/exam-centre/a-level-science-practical-endorsement/>

Tutors & Exams have eight examination centres located around the country and all are approved for examination delivery by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ).

<https://www.tutorsandexams.uk/#centre-locations>

We work in partnership with several established Distance Learning Providers and Online Schools including CloudLearn, NEC, My Online Schooling, Wolsey Hall and South West Science School.

Deadline Dates

Examination entry deadline dates for Summer 2022 Series

Qualification Type	T&E Entry Deadline Date	Late Fees apply from	High Late Fees apply from	Notes
Summer 2022	7 Feb 2022	8th Feb 2022 - 31 Mar 2022	1st Apr 2022	CAIE have a cut off of the 17th April for <u>all</u> entries in this series

Meet The Team: Paul Butler



Name: Paul Butler

Job Title: Centre Manager at High Wycombe

Based at: High Wycombe

How long have you been with Tutors & Exams?

A month and a half

What is your favourite part of your job?

I'm enjoying building a centre from the ground up. It's rewarding seeing everything come together as we prepare for what's looking to be a busy first year!

What does a typical day look like for you?

Learning, lots of learning! Quite appropriately! I have training sessions morning and afternoon, and everyone has been so friendly and helpful in-between as I ask lots of questions. Of course the normal emails and tracker updates are a daily feature, but a fair amount of my time is dedicated to getting Wycombe up and running! The office is finally looking like an office, and we even have cups and a kettle for the inspector tomorrow! It's all very exciting!

Fun Facts

Paul likes to relax by building computers and gaming. He also likes all things sci-fi and believes that Star Trek is better than Star Wars! He also enjoys Nature, Chess, Squash, Judo, and anything Physics related.

A Poem from A Candidate...

THIS is the exact reason we work as hard as we do for our candidates! We have been asked to keep this anonymous but please, take a moment out of your day to read this fantastic poem from one of our candidates with a few words from mum below!

'We knew at the age of 8 that my daughter would need a different approach and environment for her to be able to access examinations due to the challenges she faces. Home invigilation would be the only way that to ensure that she could take her GCSEs. I didn't realise how difficult finding somewhere to facilitate her to take an exam would be. After over 40 phone calls and over 40 rejections I realised that I probably had to accept that she would not be able to take an exam and I didn't know how to tell her. She was academically capable, she had worked so hard but due to the conditions she needed to take her exams in she was being turned away, it was absolutely heart breaking and it felt like a hopeless situation.

I reluctantly made another phone call, this time to Tutors and Exams in Doncaster, fully prepared and expecting to be told that our request for home invigilation would not be possible. Instead, I was told immediately that they could facilitate this and transferred me to their access arrangements team to begin the application process. Within days of sending off the access arrangements application for home invigilation, we received the news that our request had been granted by the exam board. Since then she has taken a GCSE with the most thoughtful and caring team and invigilators behind her. They went to every length to ensure that we got the exam conditions right, nothing was too much trouble and the invigilators could not have been more kind and reassuring during her exam - we are looking forward to seeing them again!

Without T&E I believe that my daughter would not have been able to take GCSEs, they would not be an option for her. T&E were accepting and opened a door that wasn't previously open, in facilitating home invigilation they have made her an equal to her peers. In saying yes, they have quite literally changed her life and I don't have the words to express my gratitude to them.'

For Tutors and Exams: what saying yes means to me

For a long time I have been working towards my ambition
-to achieve qualifications has been my mission.
I worked hard and listened, read, studied and revised;
Only to find my needs to achieve might not be authorised.

I have some challenges, I am not like the majority.
Being in this group, means I am unfortunately the minority.
To complete my exams, I needed home invigilation,
When enquires were made the request was met with frustration.



I was pushing and fighting against a glass ceiling.
Exam ready, nowhere to go... it was a sad feeling.
Could someone help me? Did anyone care?
There must be a place out there, somewhere.



Tutors and Exams didn't say no!
They didn't even question helping me, they just said 'let's go'.
They didn't turn me away because I am not the same.
In saying yes they took away my feeling of inadequacy and shame.

So thank you Tutors and Exams for accepting me as me.
In saying yes to home invigilation you handed me the key:
The key to a future where I have a chance to take GCSEs.
Thank you for giving me this opportunity to succeed!



Partners in the Spotlight



TeachAllAboutIt

Online Tuition, Resources & Distance Learning

Based in West Sussex, TeachAllAboutIt provides in person and online individual tuition and courses with subject specialists in Computer Science, ICT, Game Design, Maths and Film Studies with more planned over the coming academic year.

It specialises in GCSE and A Level provision with options for full online courses, individual masterclasses, or 1-2-1 private tuition.

Founded by our Computer Science specialist Holly Billingham, TeachAllAboutIt prides itself in supporting students through our digital resources and published revision guides.

All of our tutors have in depth experience of working with students from a variety of backgrounds, including students with SEN and are happy to discuss accessibility needs.