



Ref CLK/KE

March 2021

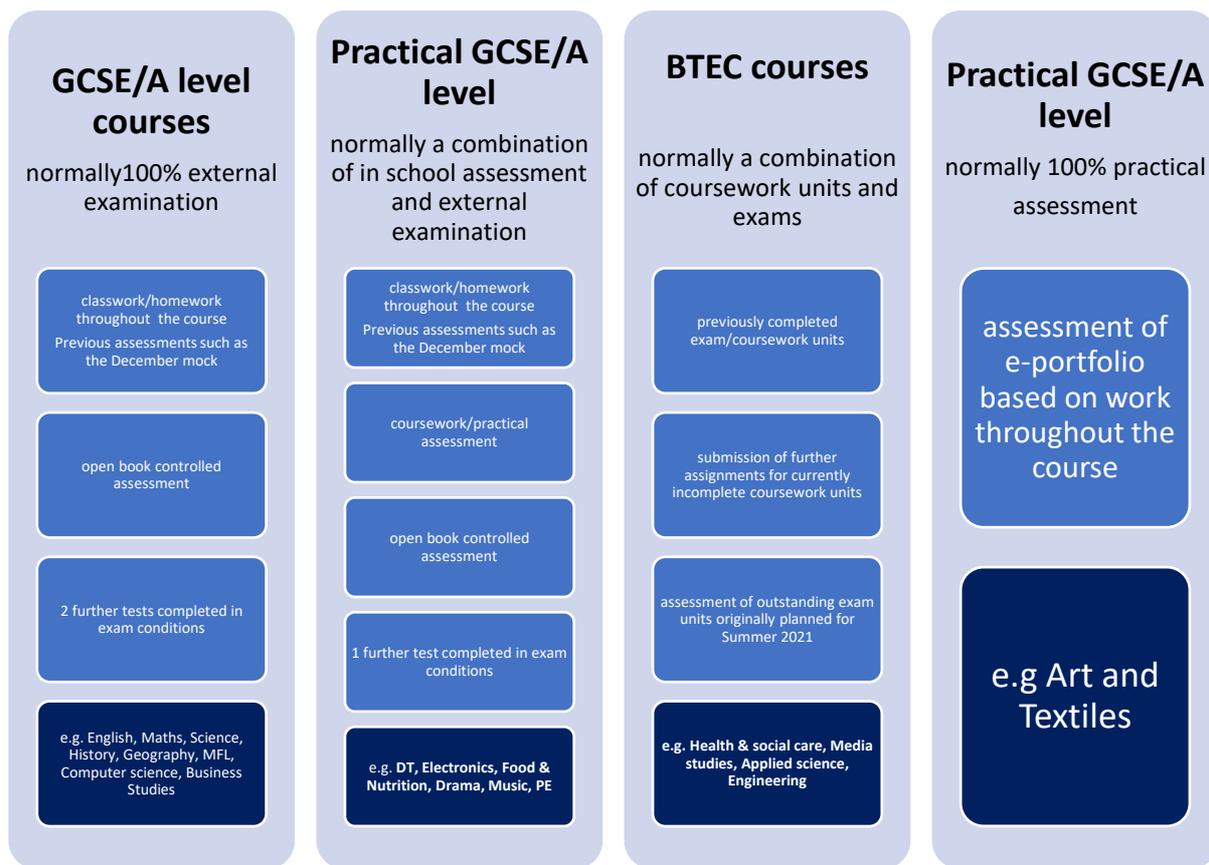
Dear Parent/Carer,

For 2021, grades for GCSEs, A levels, and other qualifications will be based on teacher assessment benchmarked against national standards. Over the past few weeks, we have been finalising our plans to reflect the decisions outlined by OFQUAL. Our priority has been to ensure we clearly follow the guidance provided by OFQUAL and exam boards to deliver a grading system that is student focused, consistent, fair and robust and affords students the best opportunity to demonstrate what they are capable of.

Unlike last year when we were asked to award the grade we thought students would have achieved if exams had gone ahead, **this year, we are being asked to assess the level students have reached.** OFQUAL guidance makes it very clear that we should continue to complete coursework and carry out further assessments to underpin the teacher assessed grades. Crucially, **these assessments will only cover the content we have taught.** We plan to use a range of evidence to award teacher assessed grades. **This evidence will consist of:** coursework (also known as non-examined assessments where applicable); December mock assessment (only assessments completed in school); practical work (where applicable); classwork and homework performance; further assessments completed in the summer term.

The evidence used will reflect the typical assessment structure of the course and this is outlined in the diagram on the next page.





Today, students took part in a remote assembly and the assessment process was explained. A link to this video can be found here <https://greatsankey.org/curriculum/exams>.

**The deadline for submitting grades to the exam board is the 18<sup>th</sup> June.** This date has dictated our timeline for assessment as we need to balance student preparation time with adequate time for marking, moderation and quality assurance. With students working remotely for such a long period of time, we think it is vital that students settle back into the school routine and spend as much time consolidating their learning as possible. Therefore, prior to the Easter break, we will not complete any formal assessments, other than coursework or practical assessments. Consequently, assessments will be distributed across the first part of the summer term in April and May.

Assessments will be spaced out, giving students adequate preparation time between papers. A timetable and revision lists for these assessments will be shared prior to the Easter break to support student revision. Students who are unable to sit an assessment due to isolation will be given an opportunity to complete the assessment once they return. For fairness, the majority of these assessments will take place in our sports hall under typical exam conditions.

**To support students, we will offer a range of additional sessions over the coming weeks and months.** During the Easter break, students who need additional time to complete coursework in practical or BTEC subjects will be invited into school and invite letters will be shared in the coming weeks.

We know that many students and parents will have questions about how we will ensure that this process is fair. The whole process of awarding teacher assessed grades will undertake a rigorous quality assurance process both within school and by exam boards. Exam boards will have the ability to adjust our grades if our process does not stand up to external scrutiny.

I know that you may have many questions, so I have included a link to a **frequently asked questions document** that should address many of the questions raised [https://files.schudio.com/great-sankey-high-school/files/documents/How Wil Grades Be Awarded FAQs.pdf](https://files.schudio.com/great-sankey-high-school/files/documents/How_Wil_Grades_Be_Awarded_FAQs.pdf). We will continue to share information regularly over the coming weeks and thank you for your continued support. However, should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Kane', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Mrs Kane  
Deputy Headteacher