

Guidance for parents/carers; Parents' Consultation Evenings 2021

The Covid pandemic has affected all of us in innumerable different ways and, regrettably, our consultation evenings are no exception. In advance of your scheduled meetings with your son/daughter's teachers please take the time to read through this guidance to ensure that the meetings run effectively and you obtain as much relevant and useful feedback as possible within the constraints imposed upon all of us.

Staff working from home

Please be aware that staff access to the College campus is currently restricted to essential staff only. This means that teachers will be conducting their remote meeting with you from home. Although they will do everything that they can to minimise disruptions, please be patient if an uninvited pet or child momentarily disturbs your meeting.

Teacher assessed grades

As you will be acutely aware, the Department for Education (DfE) have cancelled all exams, including the summer exam series. The Secretary of State for Education has also announced that this year's grades will be decided by teachers and that no algorithms will be used to moderate teacher assessed grades. Ofqual have launched a consultation which parents and carers can participate in by following this [link](#).

Although it is clear that this year's grades will be decided by teachers with input from the exam boards there are still many details which are yet to be decided. In the meantime, please do not ask teachers what grade they are planning to award your son/daughter as they simply cannot answer this question. Please also avoid asking for predicted grades or indicative grades as, again, until the precise details of how final grades will be calculated such questions cannot be answered. Teaching staff provide you with year round feedback so that you can support your son/daughter and this information can be accessed via Cedar. Please refer to the table below for details of the grades that the College uses and what each grade means.

Progress grades

As mentioned above, please refer to Cedar to view your son/daughter's Progress Grade profile as this will provide you with a strong indication of the level that your son/daughter has been working at throughout their time with us. Until we know more about how final grades will be calculated it is not possible to say for certain the extent to which in-year tracking and monitoring data will be used to calculate final grades. The consultation documents suggest that final grades will be determined by coursework in the usual manner in subjects that are assessed in this way and by end of year assessments in examination assessed subjects. Our best advice to you at this point in time is to continue to support your son/daughter to attend their timetabled lessons, participate fully and complete all work to the best of their ability. Whatever the final details of how grades will be calculated, following this advice will put your son/daughter in the best possible position to achieve a grade that fairly reflects their ability and effort. Please refer to the 'Remote Education Guide for Parents' published on the College's website for further details of the remote education provision that you can expect from the College and guidance on how you can support your son/daughter during these challenging times.

January exams

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In accordance with very late guidance issued by the DfE, January exams for applied and vocational courses went ahead as planned for some students as they had worked hard to prepare for them. In some cases, students withdrew from an exam as they did not feel able to sit it for a variety of reasons. In other cases, an exam sitting was cancelled for the whole cohort due to other factors such as the closure of the College site due to snow. The DfE have confirmed that future exams will not proceed as planned and that grades will be calculated by teachers using the methodology devised by Ofqual, once that process has been finalised. It is important to note that both the exam boards and the DfE have confirmed that no student will be disadvantaged by the cancellation or missing exams in the period January 2021 onwards.

Recording of meetings

In accordance with GDPR regulations neither the College nor you are allowed to record meetings without obtaining in advance the explicit consent of all parties participating in the meeting. As obtaining this consent is not possible, please do not record these meetings.