



Montgomery Academy

An Academy within the Fylde Coast Academy Trust

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Inspiring Excellence Together

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Dear Parent/Carer of Year 11 students,

I am writing to give you an update on the Centre Assessed Grade process for Year 11 students this year. The full guidance was published over the Easter break together with relevant assessment materials from the Exam boards. If you would like to read the main 55 pages of guidance, it is here

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/JCQ-Guidance-on-the-Determination-of-Grades-for-A-AS-Levels-and-GCSEs-Summer-2021.pdf>

Following the digestion of this guidance, our plans for how we will collect further evidence towards determining each student's grade is now almost finalised.

I need to make clear that the guidance states that when determining the final Centre-Assessed Grade, more weight should be put on evidence

- collected under high levels of control ie unseen papers sat in exam conditions, like our December Mocks
- more recent evidence ie over the coming half term

The fact that most of our students sat their Mock exams in December is a strong piece of evidence and even stronger in the subjects where they sat a full set of papers for example in Maths. However, the guidance means that further in-class assessment needs to take place to show potential further progress from the Mocks. If your son or daughter missed some of their Mocks we will give them the opportunity to sit their missed papers over the next six weeks.

There are some students, who for various reasons, we have little evidence for. It is essential that they take the opportunity to demonstrate what they can do over this half-term; otherwise we may not have sufficient evidence to award them a grade.

When compiling the timetable of in-class assessments over this half-term we wanted to avoid the following:

- All assessments being focused in one or two particular weeks
- Students having to revise the whole content at once

If a student misses one assessment due to having to self-isolate or illness this term, then other assessments may be able to compensate for the absence

The timetable that we publish today, means that students will have up to 14 mini-assessments in Maths, Science & English together with up to 12 in their 3 options subjects. These will be spread over 6 weeks. No mini-assessment will be longer than 45 minutes except for students that qualify for extra time. Splitting the assessments into smaller chunks will mean that they will have a narrower focus and lesson time in the run up to each assessment will revise the required content.

You will see that in some subjects such as Art, Design Tech, Photography or the BTECs, the sole focus will be on the completion of coursework or NEA (Non-exam assessment) and no more written assessments will be required.

Students will be given revision lists for their assessments where appropriate and the main message here is to keep working and applying themselves in each and every lesson whether they are completing coursework, revising for an assessment or sitting it. We believe that by focusing on working in school over a longer period, we will keep this process manageable for the students.

All grades need to be submitted to exam boards by the 18th June. Allowing enough time for internal moderation means that there will be no further assessment after the May half-term. Therefore, Friday 28th May will be the last day in school for Year 11. There will be some assessments in the final week, but we will celebrate in some form during the final day.

We will plan transition activities with support from Blackpool & Fylde College, Blackpool Sixth Form and other providers for after May half-term. These will predominantly be delivered remotely.

Grades submitted to exam boards in June will be subject to further moderation and may change. No student will be told their Centre Assessed Grade until they receive it on Results Day on Thursday 12th August.

Next week we will give/send each student a pack containing:

- Confirmation of Name form - this is to clarify what name students will receive on their certificates
- A declaration form - to sign to say that any work produced at home is their own
- A document clarifying what pieces of evidence will be used in each subject
- A reminder of their mock results - please note what their mock results were based on
 - Was it based on a full set of papers?
 - Was the current state of coursework factored into their grade?

We will need these forms returned as soon as possible.

I also need to draw your attention to this section of the guidance, "Students, or individuals acting on behalf of a student, such as parents/carers, might also try to influence grade decisions by applying pressure to centres or their staff. The awarding organisations anticipate that the majority of such instances will be dealt with by the centre internally – in such cases, we ask that the centres retain clear and reliable records of the circumstances and the steps taken, and that students are made aware of the outcome."

This would constitute malpractice, though I am sure that this will not be an issue.

Finally, I would like to thank the students again for returning after their Easter break in a calm mature manner. They have been a superb year group and coped admirably with many challenges that nobody could have ever anticipated. **I repeat the main message to the students, which is to do the best you can in each lesson from now until May half-term.**

If you have any questions regarding the Centre Assessed Grade process then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Regards,



S. Careless