

April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Information about Teacher Assessed Grades in 2021

I am sure you are aware that grades for GCSE and vocational courses will be awarded differently this year. Guidance from Ofqual and the Department for Education states that grades will be awarded based on the professional judgement of teachers. The judgement will be made based on a range of evidence produced by students including class and homework; tests and assessments; mock exams and any future assessments that students complete before June. It is important to note that the grade will not be determined by one piece of evidence. This means that a single very good or very disappointing piece of work (even if it was produced in the mock exams taken in December) does not mean that a student will be awarded that grade; this piece of work will constitute just one piece of evidence. The evidence used to determine a grade has been shared with students and an overview is attached to this letter

Internal Assessments

Students have completed some assessments since they returned in March and there will be a week of assessments beginning on May 12th. Not all subjects will have an assessment this week. Generally these assessments are much shorter than normal GCSE examinations and will only contain content that students have been taught by their teachers. Departments may decide to use optional assessment material supplied by exam boards or other appropriate assessment materials. The teachers will use their experience and professional judgement to choose the best mode of assessment, which is fair for all students. Most assessments, in the May assessment week, will take place in the examination hall. The grades achieved by students will not be the final grade awarded to the student. The grade will form one piece of the overall evidence used by teachers to award grades. Teachers will support students with preparation and consolidation work in the run up to the assessment week. Students should prepare and revise for the assessments.

Submission of Grades

Grades need to be submitted to exam boards by Friday 18th June. GCSE/BTEC results will be released on Thursday 12th August. There will be some form of moderation by the examination boards, and students will have the right to appeal a grade they think is unfair, but it must be noted that the exam boards will check the evidence and procedures used by the school and the grade could go up, remain the same or go down. The school has to follow rigorous quality assurance protocols, which will be reviewed by the examination boards. Teachers have to base the grade on current progress. The Ofqual guidance clearly states that 'when determining the grade, teachers should reflect the standard at which the student is performing now, not their potential.' This, and the quality assurance system schools and examination boards must follow, will prevent unfair grade inflation. Teachers will not be able to discuss the grades submitted to the examination boards with students or parents/carers prior to the results day in August.

Official Leaving Date

Compulsory attendance is not required from Monday 7th June for Year 11. However, the two week period between 7th and 18th June is reserved for students to be available to come into school and complete missed assessments / pieces of work and complete the process for examination boards. Therefore Year 11 students need to be available if required to come into school until 18th June

The link below provides useful information to parents, carers and students about the grading process:

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf>

It is important that students continue to attend school and fully engage in their learning to ensure that they continue to make progress and prepare for their next stage in their education. Excellent attendance and engagement with learning will mean that students are able to complete supporting assessments, which may be used as evidence to determine a grade, to the best of their ability.

If you have any questions or concerns about the process for awarding grades this summer please don't hesitate to contact me at school.

Mrs P Foy (Deputy Headteacher)

Subject	Evidence to be used to determine Teacher Assessed Grades Summer 2021
English Language GCSE	<p>Students have sat two full past exam papers (Paper 1 and 2 Section A and B) in exam conditions in the hall. All formal assessments follow the English department exam marking system: marking teams are lead by an AQA examiner. Standardisation takes places prior to marking with moderation of a selection of exam papers at the start and end of the marking process. Teachers do not mark exams by candidates in their own class. The June 2019 grade boundaries will be applied. Teachers will also reflect on work students have completed in class (including a number of formal in class assessments), at home and online and, using the JQC guidelines, to ensure the final grade is a holistic reflection of each student's abilities. Internal moderation of grades will take place to ensure consistency.</p>
English Literature GCSE	<p>Students have completed a full past exam paper (Paper 1) in exam conditions in the hall as well as a number of formal assessments in class. All formal assessments follow the English department exam marking system: marking teams are led by an AQA examiner. Standardisation takes places prior to marking with moderation of a selection of exam papers at the start and end of the marking process. Teachers do not mark exams by candidates in their own class. The June 2019 grade boundaries will be applied. Teachers will also reflect on work students have completed in class (including a number of formal in class assessments), at home and online and, using the JQC guidelines, to ensure the final grade is a holistic reflection of each student's. Internal moderation of grades will take place to ensure consistency.</p>
Maths GCSE	<p>Assessment 1 Mock exams – complete past exam paper series complete. Marked to Edexcel mark schemes and relevant grade boundaries applied. Assessment 2 additional exam - Additional 80 mark paper (one hour and half) based on topics covered in remaining school time. Paper unseen to staff and students to remove bias. Papers will be marked by department members not class teacher. Moderation to take place prior to marking and after marking to ensure consistency in marking Scores to be averaged to give final grade</p> <p>Class work and end of unit assessments will be used as additional evidence to supplement the award from the above</p>
Science GCSE	<p>Paper 1 Mock Examinations (Units 1-4 in Biology and Physics. Units 1-5 in Chemistry). Previous AQA papers used in conjunction with exam board boundaries. Paper 2 mock examinations. Papers constructed from relevant units using previous exam questions from AQA. AQA boundaries will be applied to these internal assessments that will be sat in full exam conditions. Internal moderation will take place between teachers within the department. Scores from the two rounds of examinations will be added together to give a grade. The grades will be reflected on in the light of end of unit examination scores from years 9-11 to make an holistic, objective judgement based on the performance of each student</p>
Geography GCSE	<p>Quantitative evidence: Past assessment data from end of unit assessments this year and last year. Mock grades November 2020. OCR papers used 2 papers blind and revised for etc.. End of year assessment Y11. Students will sit an assessment covering the content taught. Assessments will be moderated within the department.</p> <p>Qualitative evidence: Performance of the pupil in terms of classwork, homework and Oracy in class will form part of a holistic judgement</p> <p>Evidence obtained in conditions of high control, such as examinations conditions will have a greater weighting.</p>

History GCSE	<p>Mock exam paper on Normans completed December 2020. USA questions completed in class. May assessment 2021 Performance of the student in terms of classwork, homework and oracy in class will form part of a holistic judgement</p>
French GCSE	<p>Students have completed mock exams and several other past papers covering AO1 (listening), AO3 (reading) and AO4 (writing). There is no formal spoken element (AO2) this year. Pupils will instead be awarded a judgement of Pass, Merit or Distinction based on informal teacher assessment in lessons. Over the course of the last six weeks we are doing further exam-style questions to provide further opportunities for the students to demonstrate their current working grades. We intend to use all of this evidence to compile an evidence folder so we are able to justify any grades awarded to individual students.</p>
Spanish GCSE	<p>Students have completed mock exams and several other past papers covering AO1 (listening), AO3 (reading) and AO4 (writing). There is no formal spoken element (AO2) this year. Pupils will instead be awarded a judgement of Pass, Merit or Distinction based on informal teacher assessment in lessons. Over the course of the last six weeks we are doing further exam-style questions to provide further opportunities for the students to demonstrate their current working grades. We intend to use all of this evidence to compile an evidence folder so we are able to justify any grades awarded to individual students.</p>
Computer Science GCSE	<p>Assessment 1 Dec mock exams – Past paper Marked to Edexcel mark schemes and grade boundaries applied. Assessment 2 (April 2021) - Past paper with some content removed. Marked to Edexcel mark schemes but grade boundaries adjusted to account for reduced content. Assessment 3 (May 2021 - Exam in hall – Exam paper on content covered</p>
Business Studies BTEC	<p>Component 1 grade was banked at the end of Year 10 Students are working on Component 2 which is the business plan along with a formal assessed presentation. Students will be sitting an assessment in May. Performance in this assessment along with other similar assessments will be used to judge the grade for Component 3. Grades from the 3 components will be used to determine the final overall grade.</p>
Catering	<p>40% exam grade from mocks completed in December 2020. 60% from coursework mark assessed and moderated by class teachers. this includes written coursework (60%) and practical exam (40%)</p>
Dance BTEC	<p>The grade for Component 1 coursework was banked with the exam board at the end of Year10. Component 2 coursework is being completed and a video of students final performance will be used for assessment. Student will also compete a choreography exam which will be an individual mark within a group context, students will produce a final video of their work along with 3 written logs to support their practical work.</p>
Drama BTEC	<p>Component 1 was banked through the CAG process in year 10 (Summer 2020). Component 2 (Monologues) was completed in the Autumn term, in line with reduced requirements for 2020-21. Currently students are developing a piece of Drama in line with the requirements for Comp 3, and they've had the opportunity to practise these skills in lessons and through a mock exam in December 2020. Students are now continuously developing a Log of Ideas, Suggestions and ongoing Evaluations through discussions and notes (in their folders and green notebooks) in class. They will practically apply their ideas and skills to a Workshop Performance that will be shown to a select audience in the week commencing 24 May, plus do a Written Evaluation of this process under controlled conditions.</p>

Engineering NCFE	Students had their first opportunity to complete the UNIT 1 exam on November. All students are being offered a second 'in school' mock exam in May, to assist in the TAG of their final course grade.. The students are currently completing the UNIT 2 element of the course and being assessed against the AO's for the evidence they need to provide to achieve their target grades.
Film Studies GCSE	Students completed a full mock examination in December - covering aspects of both Paper 1 and paper 2. They will complete a further end-of-unit assessment in May which covers aspects of both papers. They have also completed a Non-Exam Assessment, creating their own screenplays. Additionally, a stand-alone assessment on Skyfall was completed before the Easter holidays. The final grade will be calculated, where possible, from these pieces.
Food and Nutrition GCSE	50% exam grade from mocks completed in December 2020. 50% from coursework mark assessed and moderated by class teachers. this includes written coursework (60%) and practical exam (40%)
Hair and Beauty VTCT Tech Award	Students have already completed and submitted Modules UV21578, UV21579 (Compulsory units). They have also completed UV21580. These have been marked, internally verified and sent off to the VTCT examining board. Students are currently in the process of completing module UV21583. This will be the fourth and final module which will be marked and internally verified. This will form the final part of evidence for their overall grade.
ICT BTEC	Students have received feedback on Component 1 and 2 and are now using that feedback to improve and resubmit by the deadline. There are 2 parts to both component 1 and component 2. Students are aware that if any one of those 4 pieces do not have a pass mark they will receive a U grade overall. In addition to this students have completed a mock and other assessment work for Com 3. Performance in all 3 components will be used to determine the grade
Media GCSE	Students completed a mock exam in December - covering both Paper 1 and paper 2. They will complete a further end-of-unit assessment in May which covers aspects of paper 2. They have also completed a Non-Exam Assessment, creating their own storyboards for music videos. Additionally, a stand-alone assessment on Luther was completed before the Easter holidays. The final grade will be calculated, where possible, from these pieces.
Music GCSE	Coursework: 2 x performance opportunities through April & May or video evidence. Final composition completed by May half-term. Listening Exam paper on May 19th - specific topics to be reviewed prior to the exam.
Visual Arts GCSE	PHOTOGRAPHY - FINE ART - GRAPHICS - 3D SCULPTURE All students will have completed Component 1 and parts of Component 2 of their AQA coursework in full. We have all the work in sketchbooks with the final outcomes printed. All students have completed all elements of the Portfolio A which is the only thing required for a mark with AQA. Student doing an additional GCSE must complete as much as possible with at least 1 final outcome by May 15th
PE GCSE	Students have sat a full past exam paper (Paper 1) in exam conditions in the hall. Coursework standardised by same marking team, practical moderation taking place 7th May as per normal assessment conditions.
Design Technology GCSE	Student NEA (coursework). The best of the mock exam result taken in December 2020 and an Assessment taken in May 2021.
RE GCSE	Students sat a mock examination in December. Students will have carried out four in class assessments this year which will all be moderated by the department. Students will sit a final paper during the May assessments.