

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

The last 12 months have been fully of challenges, and, as a result, the Government announced in January that the examination period this summer would be significantly different.

We appreciate that the wait to get clarification and certainty has caused us all to have some levels of stress and anxiety – particularly our hardworking students who have taken this all in their stride.

At the end of last week, the Government released guidance about how the exams would be replaced with Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs). We are, therefore, delighted that we are now able to communicate with you about how we intend to support our students to achieve the outcomes they deserve.

Firstly, there are a couple of exceptions. Students on the following courses will still need to take assessments as normal. All other courses, however, will award grades based on TAGs.

- Motor Vehicle
- YMCA Personal Training course
- BTEC L4 (Foundation Art)
- Foundation Learning
- Functional Skills

For those courses that will award grades through TAGs, the rules on how these grades must be compiled are very clear. All grades also need to be evidenced, and there is an extensive moderation process to ensure that plans are fair. We have tried to summarise this below:

- Internal exams and work already completed throughout the year, can be used as evidence
- Any additional assessment set between Jan 2021 – 21st May, can be used as evidence
- Students will only be assessed on what they have been taught
- We have asked all teachers to publish assessment plans for each subject/qualification - these will detail the assessment evidence that they intend to use to make their judgements
- Curriculum managers will look at these plans and ensure that they are fair and consistent
- Senior leaders will consider this information, as a second layer of quality assurance

We have provided a more detailed explanation of the Teacher Assessed Grade process, [here](#) and an FAQ document [here](#).

Even though there may not be exams, evidence is still the key to the grades that can be awarded. So, at this point, we need students to keep working hard and engaging with learning to the full. Teachers will continue to teach, support and assess the students, as in any normal year.

Teachers will already have notified students of any assessment topics that they should prepare for the **period immediately after the Easter break**. Please follow this [link](#) to access instructions for preparations over the Easter break so that students can prioritise and sequence their revision most efficiently. These will be available on or before 26.03.21. This is not an exhaustive list and a fully detailed assessment plan for each subject will be published on or before 16.04.21, once any final information from exam boards has been received.

Kind regards

George Chittock-Nash
Vice Principal - Students