

Awarding of Qualification Grades Summer, 2021

Dear Student and Parent/Carer

We understand that you and your child will feel anxious about this summer's exam grading, but we hope this letter provides you with a bit more certainty and some reassurance. The DfE and Ofqual have now announced plans for the awarding of grades and we are able to share the following details:

- There will be no externally set exams this summer
- The grades awarded will be based on teachers' assessment of the knowledge and skills they have developed. These are known as Teacher Assessed Grades or TAGs
- We will be using a range of evidence to inform the TAGs, so grades will not be based on a single result in an internal examination or class assessment
- Teachers will prepare an assessment plan for each subject or qualification that will require a TAG grade. There are some courses that are exempt, and these are listed below. These plans will detail the evidence that will be used to make the holistic judgement for the TAG. These will be made **available on our website by 16.04.21**. This date allows for the inclusion of assessment material which will be provided by exam boards by the end of March. As some centre devised assessments will occur before this date, instructions for students' preparations over the Easter holidays are **available on our website now** so that students can prioritise and sequence their revision most efficiently.
- When formulating the TAG, the range of evidence that teachers will be able to draw upon includes:
 - **A-level and GCSE**
Assessment evidence from exam board materials, assessment evidence from centre created materials. non-examined assessment/coursework, past performances for Music, Drama, Dance, and other practical subjects, and records of student progress – these have to be linked to previous assessment and cannot be the predicted grades from termly reports or UCAS grades.
 - **BTEC L2 and L3 qualifications, RSL and OCR Nationals**
Previous achieved internal and external units, upcoming assignments,

internal assessment for units that support progression where these external units have been cancelled, and records of student progress – these have to be linked to previous assessment and cannot be the predicted grades from termly reports or UCAS grades.

- **Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)**
An assessment of the EPQs students have submitted will be used to provide a TAG.
- There will be a robust approach to the quality assurance processes, we will follow, to ensure that our judgements are accurate and fair:
 - As far as possible students' assessment will be blind marked to mitigate against unconscious bias
 - Subject teachers will standardise the holistic judgements they make
 - Curriculum leaders will sample the judgements their teams make and the evidence that has been used to make these
 - College leaders will consider the grade distribution, at subject level
 - Compare with historical and national data
 - Review the distribution of grades across the protected characteristics (e.g. sex, ethnicity, socioeconomic groupings).
 - Data sampling will be undertaken, before grades are submitted, to ensure no administrative errors have been made.
- Students **will not complete any assessment beyond 21.05.21**. We will be offering students support in terms of careers appointments and information, advice and guidance about their plans for progression. **We urge all students to remain available until 28.05.21**.
- The college will submit grades to the exam boards by **18.06.21**. The exam boards will choose a sample of colleges and look at the evidence and procedures they have used to ensure that grades have been awarded fairly.
- Results will be published earlier than normal. L3 results, **10.08.21** and L2 results, **12.08.21**. Further information will be provided at a later date, about our arrangements.
- There will be an appeals system for any student who believes that their grade is not fairly awarded.

Ofqual have created a one-page infographic summarising the key points which can be viewed [here](#).

There are **some exceptions** to how **some qualifications** will be graded:

- **Beauty Therapy**
TAGs will be award for Beauty Therapy using a range of evidence that covers the wide range of skills and knowledge students require to be successful in the industry. Students will receive an assessment plan to inform them of the evidence that will be drawn upon to formulate their grade and the upcoming assessment they will undertake.
- **Motor Vehicle and YMCA Personal Training**
Assessment will continue and where necessary, it may be adapted as per the exam board guidance.
- **BTEC L4 (Foundation Art), Foundation Learning and Functional Skills**
Assessments will continue as normal.

For students on these courses' assessment will continue beyond 28.05.21 but they will finish their studies according to the academic calendar.

There will be more detail emerging over the coming weeks, much of this will relate to internal college procedures. If there is further information, we need to provide to you, we will let you know and keep you informed every step of the way.

The end of an academic year can be a stressful time for all involved and this year is more difficult than most. It is important to focus on the big picture and students should be encouraged to keep working hard, to do their best with their remaining studies, and be reassured that the results they achieve will be a fair reflection of their performance across the course and not in one single exam or on one single day.

We thank you for your support.

Best wishes

George Chittock-Nash
Vice Principal – Students