



12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

## **Important Update: Assessment and Teacher Assessed Grades**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, we would like to express our gratitude to all parents and carers of our Year 11 students for their efforts during this difficult period. Teaching staff have been so impressed with both the significant and sustained attendance to online lessons and work completed successfully during this time, and we would therefore like to thank every one of you for encouraging your child to continue to do their best.

Further to our last letter to you dated 1<sup>st</sup> March regarding the outcomes of the consultation for how grades will be awarded to students this year, this letter now sets out important information about assessment over the coming term and how we intend to determine teacher assessed grades. We recognise that this is an area where you may have questions, and we would like to provide you with as much information as we can to help you understand the process fully.

### **Summary of Ofqual decisions - Assessment and Evidence - Teacher Assessed Grades**

1. Teachers must assess students' performance, only on what content has been delivered to them, whether in the classroom or via remote learning, to determine the grade each student should receive.
2. Teachers can use evidence of a student's performance from throughout the course to inform their judgement.
3. Schools should use a broad range of evidence across the taught content to determine the grades before submitting the grades to the exam boards.
4. Students should continue to work on their non-exam assessment (NEA)/coursework. NEAs will be marked by teachers and will contribute to the overall grade, whether or not it has been completed.
5. School's internal quality assurance arrangements will include consideration of the school's profile of results in previous years as a guide to help them to check that their judgements are not unduly harsh or lenient.
6. In GCSE and A level Art and Design, the student's grade must be based on the portfolio only.
7. In GCSE English Language and in GCSE Modern Languages, centres should determine and submit a separate grade or result for the endorsement (Speaking). This result or grade should be based on work that has been completed towards the endorsement.
8. Students who sat examinations in January (Cambridge Nationals) will not be disadvantaged. Teacher assessed grades can be requested for these units, where results do not reflect overall levels.
9. For the small number of students who complete Functional Skills tests, these will go ahead as planned and students should sit these tests as normal, where this is possible.

It is likely that Ofqual will issue a student guide in the coming months, but the attached graphics <https://www.cromptonhouse.org/covid-19-policy/> show a useful summary of the overall approach and also confirms the earlier results day of Thursday 12 August for GCSEs and Cambridge National.

### **Records of each student's progress and performance over the course of study**

It is clear from the guidance so far that centres must consider the standard at which each student has performed over the course of study. Schools will be expected to provide high quality evidence which relates to the specification in terms of both content and assessment of records of each student's progress and performance over the full course of study. This evidence will need to take account of existing records as well as outcomes of future school designed assessments. The first step in making a judgement of our students' achievement is having a strong overview of evidence and it is our intent to provide you, within the coming weeks, with a grade summary report which represents a clear



current overall picture of your child's assessment data since Year 10 up to this point.

## **What will happen next in school?**

Please note that the guidance that we have so far is from Ofqual, the regulatory body, and we await further information from specific exam boards. However, considering the recommendations that schools should adopt a continued assessment approach based on objective information, we have been planning for the opportunity for our Year 11 students to take a further Spring Assessment. These Spring Assessments will allow us to assess the current standard at which our students are performing and will provide us with further evidence that can be used in combination with the strong sets of evidence we have on our students so far to determine teacher assessed grades.

These Spring Assessments will take place during a two-week period from 19<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April and will assess our students on a range of topics from across each subject area's course of study. These assessments will take place in invigilated conditions and will be marked by teachers. During this two-week assessment period, when not sitting an assessment, students will attend lessons in line with their timetable. During these lessons, students will complete guided revision. The Spring Assessment timetable will follow next week together with further details regarding revision and support towards these assessments. All students will receive a 'Student Information Booklet', which will include revision lists for each subject. We will also explain the content of this letter to your child in an upcoming assembly.

Moving forward, we need to support students to carry on with their education for the remainder of the academic year. The knowledge, skills and understanding that students will continue to acquire will stand them in good stead for the next part of their lives, whether that be in transition to being fully prepared for future courses at A Level, college or the world of work. We do not anticipate that Year 11 will be required to attend school through to the end of the academic year, but we have not yet received any indication as to a date that might represent the 'final day of school' for this year group.

We hope that you understand that this is a complex process and that we want to give you all the reassurance that we can about your child's teacher assessed grades.

Should you have any questions relating to this at this point, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mr C. Raynerd, Assistant Headteacher for Key Stage 4.

Yours sincerely,

Susanna Hegarty  
Assistant Headteacher  
Assessment