



12th March 2021

Important Update: Spring Assessments and Teacher Assessed Grades

Dear Students, Parents/Carers,

We would firstly like to express our pride at how all our students have handled the many challenges of the last year and our gratitude to all parents and carers for their support during this difficult period. Academic Tutors and teaching staff have been so impressed with the significant and sustained attendance to online lessons and the work completed successfully during this time.

Secondly, further to our last letter to you dated 1st March, regarding the outcomes of the consultation on grade determination, 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 fully 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. Exam boards will put in place arrangements for external Quality Assurance to check each centre's internal Quality Assurance processes and to review the evidence for one or more subjects. Sampling should be both random, and risk-based.
7. Students who sat examinations in January will not be disadvantaged. Teacher assessed grades can be requested for these units, where results do not reflect overall levels.

It is likely that Ofqual will issue a student guide in the coming months, but this infographic: [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964613/Infographic -
_how GCSEs AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/964613/Infographic_-_how_GCSEs_AS_and_A_levels_will_be_awarded_in_summer_2021.pdf) shows a useful summary of the overall approach and also confirms the earlier results day.

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 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. It is our intention to provide you with a grade summary report which represents a clear current overall picture of assessment data throughout Year 12 and 13.

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The guidance that we have received so far from Ofqual, the regulatory body, states that schools should adopt a continued assessment approach, based on objective information. Therefore, we have planned an opportunity for our Year 13 students to complete a further Spring Assessment.

Each student will complete **one** 2-hour paper in each of their subjects. The topics to be assessed will be communicated in advance. These Spring Assessments will allow us to get an up to date picture and then in combination with the strong set of evidence we have on our students already and historic data, determine a Teacher Assessed Grade. In summary a students' Teacher Assessed Grade will not solely be based on the result of these Spring Assessments.

These Spring Assessments will take place during the two-week period from 19th to 30th April and will assess students on a range of pre identified topics from across each subject's course of study. These assessments will take place in invigilated conditions, in order to ensure the integrity of them, and will be marked by teachers. During this assessment period, when not sitting an assessment, students will attend lessons in line with their timetable, where they will complete guided revision. A timetable for the assessments will follow next week.

Further details regarding revision and support towards the Spring Assessments will also follow next week, in the form of revision lists. These lists will outline which topics will be assessed in the Spring Assessment and also direct students to revision resources. Monday 'Period 6' sessions will start next week, and other revision sessions will also be available, more information to follow.

Moving forward, we need to support students to carry on with their education for the remainder of their 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 for future courses at university or the world of work. We do not anticipate that Year 13 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 our intention is to give you reassurance about the awarding of Teacher Assessed Grades.

Should you have any questions relating to the contents of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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