

All Hallows Catholic College

A Voluntary Academy | National Teaching School

Aspire not to have more but to be more

Brooklands Avenue, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 8LB | Telephone: 01625 426138 | Fax: 01625 468126 | admin@allhallows.org.uk | www.allhallows.org.uk

Principal - Mr T Beesley

3rd March 2021

Dear Parent or Carer,

RE: UPDATED INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS OF YEAR 11 & 13 STUDENTS

Government Guidance

As mentioned in last week's newsletter, the DfE has now announced more information about the process for awarding final GCSE & A Level grades this summer. We are still seeking clarification about some aspects of the process, and you and your child will receive more information on this in due course. In the meantime, the government has published information for parents on the process for awarding centre-assessed grades which can be found at https://dfemedia.blog.gov.uk/2021/02/25/what-you-need-to-knowabout-grades-in-2021/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

In summary, the key points we know so far are:

- Students will be assessed by those who know them best – their teachers – so that they are not disadvantaged by the disruption of the last year.
- The aim is for students to receive a grade that reflects their ability and enables them to progress to the next stage of their education, training, or employment.
- Grades will be based on what students have been taught, not what they've missed.
- Teachers will consider each student's performance using a variety of sources of evidence.
- They will make an evidence-based judgement of the grade each student is performing at.
- Before grades are submitted, students will be told what evidence is being used to assess them.
- Schools will make sure that their assessment process is fair, and Exam boards will quality assure, using a representative sample of all schools and colleges, and more targeted checks.
- Teachers will submit grades to exam boards by Friday 18 June 2021.
- Results days will take place in the week of Monday 9 August 2021 - AS & A level results will be released on Tuesday 10 August, and GCSE results on Thursday 12 August.



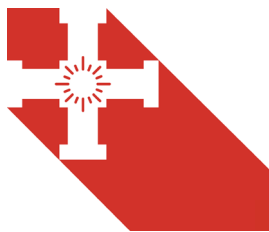
Honourable Purpose

Respect

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How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021



Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
Graded by teacher judgement Not graded by an algorithm School and college assessments can continue You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded	Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence Non-exam assessment should continue Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete Art & design grade based only on your portfolio Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best	Results days AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college. <p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p> www.gov.uk/ofqual

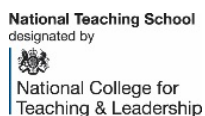
Assessments

As communicated to you in my letter before half term, there will be assessments in all subjects later this term, with the dates still to be finalised. Rather than 'Mock Exams', this will be a 'formal assessment window', in which individual subject assessments will be scheduled so that students are not overloaded with too many assessments on any given day. Additionally, there will also be ongoing assessments, in all subjects, before and after this assessment window, to enable teachers to gather as much evidence as possible about students' progress.

Frequently Asked Questions

We are aware that even with the government guidance above, many of you will still have questions about the process of awarding grades this summer, and what will be happening in College over the next month or so. We will endeavour to answer all of your questions and provide further information in due course, but in the meantime, we have put together the following list of 'Frequently Asked Questions', that may be useful:

1. Will the Teacher Prediction / Teacher Assessment reported in the Autumn Progress Review be used to award the final grade?
The progress information sent home before the national lockdown and the cancellation of exams, will be used, along with any further assessments between now and the submission of Teacher Assessed Grades.



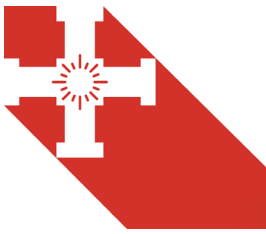
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2. Will Mock Examinations take place?

We are currently working with Subject Leaders on arrangements for a 'formal assessment window', rather than a traditional 'Mock Exam' series. There will also be ongoing assessment in lessons, so that teachers can give students as much opportunity as possible to evidence progress.

3. Will my child know which pieces of assessment data will be used to award the final grade?

Whilst we are unable to share any predictions or final grades, subject teachers will share with students which pieces of assessment data will contribute to the process of deciding upon the final teacher-assessed grade

4. Will my child/children be informed of the content which will be assessed in any future assessments?

Yes. As is common practice with any assessments undertaken in College, we want to give our students the best opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and evaluation of topics covered. Any assessments set by subject teachers will be clearly communicated and explained, so as to help them prepare as fully as possible.

5. Does my child need to continue attending all of their lessons?

Yes. The DfE guidance states that 'School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March'.

6. When is the last day of term for my child/children?

We have not yet received information or guidance about 'end of term' arrangements for Year 11 & 13 students. As soon as we are provided with this information, we will share it with you.

Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening

Tomorrow is our virtual Year 11 Parent Consultation Evening, and appointments are limited to five minutes. Some parents / carers and students may want to ask their teacher, what grade they think they will be awarded. Unfortunately, **we are unable to share any predictions or final grades**, as:

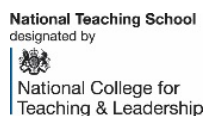
- We need to continue to collect and moderate evidence, over the coming weeks and months
- There is still guidance coming through from DfE / Ofqual and exam boards, related to the awarding of grades.

Please, therefore, try and focus your discussions on how well your child has engaged / is engaging with their remote learning, and what they still need to do, once they return to College, to maximise their potential.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and I look forward to seeing our students back in College next week.

God Bless

Tim Beesley



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