



18 March 2021

Dear Year 12 Students, Parents and Carers,

Re: School Assessed Grades Summer 2021

We are writing to provide you with more details in relation to the process that Fulford School will use for the grading of students this summer. The final grades will be awarded by the individual exam boards.

Outline of the Process

The grades for A levels, BTEC and all the other qualifications we offer will be based on a process involving internal assessment against national standards, internal quality assurance, and external quality assurance by the exam boards.

The national process defined by the Department for Education and the exams' regulator, Ofqual, is as follows:

1. Teachers will **assess students against a national standard**, which will be defined by the exam boards before the Easter break.
2. Departments will submit grades which will be **quality assured by the school / college**. This internal quality assurance process will have to be signed off by the exam board to ensure it is rigorous and in line with national standards.
3. The submitted grades will be **quality assured externally** by the exam boards, which may include random sampling of our school or college's evidence.
4. If the exam boards are confident in our submitted results, **then the exam boards will award students their final grades**.
5. If students do not think their results are accurate, they will have the right to **appeal**.

The Evidence

The grade students achieve will be based on assessment of their performance across a range of evidence. This is against a nationally-defined standard, not the school's own opinion. In order to ensure consistency between different schools, the standard against which we will be assessing students is set nationally by the exam boards. This grade is then subject to both internal and external quality assurance, before the final grade is awarded by the exam body on 10 August.

In line with the guidance, we will only assess students on content they have been taught. This means students will not be disadvantaged if they individually, their whole class or whole year group have been unable to complete their full course. However, grades can only be submitted on the basis of the evidence we have of students' performance, even if that evidence covers less of the course than usual. Unfortunately if sufficient evidence is not available, it may not be possible to award a grade to a student in a subject although, we do not envisage this being an issue.

Our teachers are already using their professional expertise to assess students on the content they have been taught. Teachers are unable to submit higher grades for students unless they have the evidence that they are consistently working at this level. If teachers submit higher grades without evidence, they are committing exam malpractice.

Teachers will be able to discuss which evidence they are using to inform their judgement with students, including previously marked or graded pieces of work. However, we are not allowed to disclose their final submitted grade we give to the exam board.

Students should not attempt to second-guess the grade submitted, as teachers will be using a range of evidence to inform their final judgement. Students and parents must not pressure teachers to reveal the grades they are submitting, or to increase the grades, as doing so may be considered exam malpractice.

Teachers are able to draw on a range of assessment evidence from across a student's study of the course. This may include NEA work, homework tasks, topic tests and papers set by the exam boards. This may include evidence from before the second lockdown, as well as evidence from March – June. These grades were based on assessments undertaken within departments at these reporting points. Different departments may have used different sources of evidence as the basis for these current assessment grades. Staff should have discussed the most recent current assessment grade with students in lessons this week.

In almost all subjects, there will be a final assessment that is scheduled to take place in early May. These will be limited to no more than two hours per subject and will be run in central exam halls to ensure fairness to all students. The exam boards are producing assessment materials that will be used to create these final assessments activities. Students will be given an outline of the assessment timetable before Easter and class teachers will provide guidance in order to help support students with their revision.

Specific Subject Evidence

Each department will be using a range of evidence to support the grading. Please find below a summary of the evidence being used in each department.

Subject	Identified Sources of Evidence
BTEC Applied Science	Current Assessment Grade (November)
	Current Assessment Grade (March)
	<i>Unit 1 Assessment Physics (March)</i>
	<i>NEA Unit 2</i>
	Final Assessment Activity
Core Maths	Final Assessment Activity

Evidence sources identified in italics are specific to that department. The teachers will provide more details to students in relation to when these activities will take place and the content of these. Where a student has been unable to complete elements of the NEA due to lockdown restrictions, they will not be disadvantaged by this. Students who are entitled to additional access arrangements for assessments will be given these in any assessment activity that they are asked to do.

We have asked that teachers do not deliver any new content in lessons after the Easter holiday. The intention is that remaining new content can be delivered at the end of the year once the final assessment activities taken place.

I am sure that you will have many questions in relation to the grading process. Before contacting the school with any queries, please refer to the attached Q&A document. Over the coming weeks, I intend to send out regular updates on the grading process and will update the attachment in line with the questions that I receive.

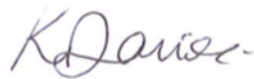
The best thing students can do is to continue to attend classes, learn, act on feedback from their teachers, revise and read around their subject. Work covered in lessons will help students prepare for the upcoming assessments and the completion of their NEA work. Their grade will be based on their performance and so their outcomes are ultimately in their hands.

Yours sincerely,



Mr A Rosie

Deputy Headteacher



Mrs K Davies

Director of Sixth Form