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Monday 22 March

Dear Parents and Carers

I write with information about our approach to establishing centre-assessed grades for your child.

Guiding principles:

Information from the exam boards for **GCSE and A Level qualifications** is as follows:

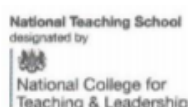
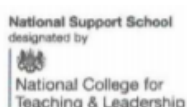
- Teachers need to assess their students' performance - based only on what has been taught - to determine the grade each student should receive.
- Teachers can use evidence of a student's performance from throughout the course to inform their judgement.
- Schools and colleges should use a broad range of evidence for each student, for each subject studied, to determine their individual grades.
- Students should continue to work on their non-exam assessment (NEA), including for Project qualifications. NEA will be marked by teachers and will contribute to the overall grade, whether or not it's been completed.

Assessment and Evidence:

We have assessed your child throughout their courses of study and have a range of 'key task' evidence for each subject. However, we must allow students to demonstrate the progress that they have made throughout their courses by providing assessment opportunities in the coming weeks. We have worked with our partner secondary schools in the Trust to establish an assessment strategy for our GCSE and A Level students. The strategy will use a number of forms of assessment to provide further robust and standardised evidence to establish teacher-assessed grades for each student. The assessments will include:

- An assessed piece of homework for each subject to be completed during the Easter break. There will be one 30-minute task per GCSE subject and two 45-minute tasks per A Level subject.
- A series of timetabled 'open book' key task assessments in week commencing Monday 27 April. There will be one for each GCSE subject and two per A Level subject. In these assessments the students will be able to use resources to answer the questions, to ensure that we are assessing understanding and application of knowledge. These key task assessments will take place during lesson time.
- As mentioned previously, we will also have a timetable of summative assessments during fortnight commencing Tuesday 4 May. These assessments will take place with their teachers in classrooms, during lesson time, but will be in test conditions. Each assessment will take 50 minutes to complete and there will be one paper per subject at GCSE and two papers per subject at A Level. Subject teachers will provide revision lists and materials to students before the Easter break to ensure that students are fully and thoroughly prepared.

For **Art, BTECs and other vocational qualifications**, we will continue to work on portfolio and coursework evidence to allow students to demonstrate their progress with these courses. There will be no summative assessments for these qualifications.



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Following the assessment period, there will be a thorough standardisation process across subjects and with partner school involvement for additional external validation. This will ensure that our centre-assessed grades are fair, robust and accurate.

The guidance from Ofqual is that assessment evidence used should be consistent at subject and class level. However, a small number of students who have been impacted more significantly by Covid may not have the same evidence as other students. Departments are identifying these students for whom we may need to use an individualised range of evidence.

Quality assurance:

Exam boards will put in place arrangements for external Quality Assurance (QA) to check each school's internal QA process and, in a sample of schools, to review the evidence for one or more subjects. Exam boards will process the grades submitted by schools only after completing, and being satisfied with, any external QA.

Appeals and results:

Students will be able to appeal their final grade after results days. A grade that is appealed could go up, stay the same or go down as a result of the appeal. Further information about the appeals process is available by following this link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021#appeals>

We will continue to support all members of our school community throughout these difficult circumstances and will ensure that the nature and purpose of each type of assessment is fully understood by each student. We are determined to ensure that we provide sufficient opportunities for our students to demonstrate fully the progress that they have made and the grades that they are deserving of. If you have any questions about our assessment strategy, please email assessment@st-wilfrids.org by Wednesday 31 March. We will then collate our responses to your frequently asked questions and will share with all parents.

Many thanks for your support during this challenging time.

Kind regards

D Ritchie

Mrs Ritchie

Acting Head of School