



### **Summer Assessments 2021 / Forward to a Successful Future Frequently Asked Questions**

#### **When Year 11 return to school, will it be full time?**

Yes, we have published the phased return of our students and when Year 11 are in school they will be back in full time

#### **When will Year 11 actually finish the summer term?**

We currently do not have a finishing date, but as soon as we are provided with one we will share it with the school community.

#### **Will teachers inform students if there is work they can do to improve their grade if falling behind?**

Teachers will work with students to identify any gaps in their learning and address these. The current strategy will be to cover the assessment skills, then to assess the students. This will ensure all our students have an equal opportunity to achieve an appropriate Centre Determined Grade in line with their knowledge, skills and understanding.

#### **Are all grades going to be based on class based assessments?**

Schools will determine grades using evidence from non-examined assessments and class based assessments using adaptive past papers questions. Teachers may use evidence from previous formal assessment work to help **confirm a judgement**. Teachers are to use these three aspects to determine a 'best fit' for every student in every subject.

#### **Could you give some more information on what "other contributory evidence" might be and how you might use it to "confirm" grades?**

Other contributing evidence can be other WJEC past-paper questions which have been completed under controlled conditions, and/or summative assessments undertaken prior to publication of our assessment approach. These may only be used to **confirm a judgement**. This is because the students would not have been aware of the 'high stakes' importance of them at the time of completion.

#### **Will the grades they see in June be a guide and if so, can they change?**

The grades you see before they are submitted to the WJEC are what the school determines to be a holistic grade for your child. If the student does not ask to review the grade, it will be shared with the WJEC who will approve them and not make any alterations.

#### **It seems there will be exams then?**

No, these classroom based assessments and will be monitored by class teachers. Teachers will cover work prior to the class based assessment and students will know which aspects of the course are to be assessed. There will be no surprises for students.

#### **Will the AS level grades count towards the A level grades next year?**

No. AS grades will not contribute to A Level grades.

#### **Will the AS grades be used for current YR 12 university applications?**

Yes. This will be one of the many pieces of data we will share. As a school we have very robust tracking systems and also have predicted grades for all of our students so none of them will be disadvantaged.

#### **Will the grades that are awarded to A level students in Wales be comparable to those in England as Universities will be still asking for grades to enter their courses?**

Yes, the grades will be comparable.

**Will A-level students doing science subjects be given an automatic pass in their practical exams, as some universities require this pass as one of their conditions**

Students will be graded on the written papers which will contain questions on practical aspects of the course. These will give an overarching grade that will include practical aspects, therefore universities should not be concerned.

**In Maths A level, we have been given 4 preliminary dates for 4 assessments that will determine our grade. We have been told that no other evidence over the last 2 years will count towards this grade. Is this in line with the schools guidelines?**

Yes. The Centre Determined Grades are generated from adapted past-paper questions and non-Examination Assessments (where applicable). The work completed prior to these will, however, be used to form part of the other contributing evidence that teachers will use to help **confirm a judgement**. This will all form part of a holistic grade.

Students that have worked hard in school and online will be well placed to succeed in these class based assessments and will have the knowledge, skills and understanding to progress onto the next stage of their learning.

**Will BTEC students have a provisional grade on the 25th June?**

We are still awaiting confirmation with regards to BTECs, but will share this with students/parents when we have this information.

**Will students be expected to cover the whole of their subjects, or will teachers stop teaching new BTEC and A Level units at some point to meet the deadlines for predicted grades?**

The exam boards have already made a number of adaptations to support students with completing the courses. Subjects have had course content reduced to ensure the course can be completed in the timeframe allocated. We currently do not have an official finishing date for our Year 11, 12, or 13 students, but we hope to continue to teach them for as long as possible. This is to ensure they have the skills and knowledge required for the next stage of their learning

**Will we get to see the provisional grades before they are submitted to the WJEC?**

Yes. Centre Determined Grades will be shared with students by 25 June

**Are students allowed to redo any of their work which will be used towards the final grades for English literature i.e. NEA's**

It will be very challenging to redo any work as there is a tight window for assessment, therefore we need to make sure all students do their best on their first attempt. The school can use other data if required to provide a holistic grade.

**Will Year 10's be sitting Maths exams in November?**

We have not made a decision at this moment, but will inform parents if we decide there will be exams at that time. Our priority at this moment is to get students back into school and through the CDG process.

**Will the year 12 BTEC grades carry forward to the Year 13 results?**

Year 12 students completing any BTEC unit will have this carried forward as this will be part of the normal process.

**Will there be a Year 10 'Teams' parents' evening? It's quite hard at the moment to get a sense of how our young people are coping with the curriculum demands from home.**

Yes, information will be sent out shortly. The Year 10 parents' evenings is on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March.

**Are the Year 12 reports soon?**

Year 12 reports are due to be sent to parents on the 26<sup>th</sup> March.

**Will careers advice for Year 13 improve once they are back next week?**

Careers advice is still in place and students, or parents, can book an appointment by contacting the school.

**Do you have any idea when Year 13s will finish the summer term?**

We currently do not have a finishing date, but as soon as we are provided with one we will share it with the school community.

**When students return on Monday, what is the case with Covid testing?**

Students who have opted into the Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing will receive a kit when they return to school on Monday. They will then take this kit home and complete a test. Students will then fall into the schools normal testing schedule of Sunday and Wednesday.

**When students return on Monday will they be following the recently updated online learning timetable, or the year group specific timetables set in September?**

There will be a blend of timetables. Students onsite will revert back to the 3X100min lessons and those at home will continue with the blended learning timetable, but please do not worry as we will send these out daily to students.

**Will the school buses be running?**

Yes. All transport will be in place for when students return to school.

**Will the canteen be open please?**

Yes, the canteen will be open for all students.

**Will you update the Sims app with timetables, etc. by Monday?**

Yes, that will updated on Monday.

**Will there be revision sessions during the holidays?**

We are hoping these session will take place and are planning for some Easter sessions. This will obviously be dependent upon the R rate over the next 2 weeks. We will communicate our plans to all parents.

**If a child is self-isolating, will there still be online classes?**

If a student is self-isolating there will be an online offer. This will only be for students who are isolating due to COVID, being a contact or who have a medical shielding letter. All other students will be expected in school, in-line with Welsh Government expectations.

**Do students have to wear face coverings in classrooms?**

Yes. Students will be expected to wear face coverings when in the classroom and whilst onsite. Students who are exempt will have identification through a lanyard so they will not be expected to wear face coverings.

**May I ask about asthmatics? As wearing a face mask constantly is not going to be possible**

This will be fine. Students with medical reasons for not wearing a face covering must inform the school though.

**Will we need to bring devices when we come back?**

We will be asking that all of KS4 and KS5 students bring a device with them to school.

**During lunchtimes will Year 12 & Year 13 be in one common room to eat lunch as it may get overcrowded?**

Post 16 students will be given a number identified areas to work in. When they are on break they will also have the opportunity to use the canteens.

**Has the wi-fi access for chrome books been sorted?**

We have been working hard on our IT infrastructure and we are hopeful that the IT issues pre-lockdown are now resolved.