

Headteacher/Pennaeth
Alan Tootill

Tel: (01792) 533066
Fax: (01792) 533366



Pontarddulais Road
Gorseinon
SWANSEA
SA4 4FG

18th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Year 11 Pupil

Centre-Determined Grades

This summer Year 11 GCSE/BTEC grades will be awarded by teachers following a strict process that has been developed by the WJEC and Qualification Wales. The purpose is to award an appropriate grade for each pupil in each subject which is fair and valid based on evidence. These grades are Centre-Determined Grades (CDGs) and this letter gives you more information about the process we will be undertaking.

Since the return of Year 11 pupils to school earlier this week and throughout the remainder of their time in school this academic year, our main focus will be on teaching the knowledge and skills which our pupils need to access further education, employment or training. We will build appropriate assessments into this time in order to gain evidence of pupils' attainment.

CDGs are not estimates or predictions. They are grades determined by clear evidence. We cannot award grades based on potential. CDGs are also not the same as Centre-Assessed Grades, which were awarded to those leaving school in 2020, because those grades were subject to external change after being awarded. This year, the CDGs will not be changed by any external process, provided we have followed the correct procedures and have awarded fair and valid grades.

CDGs will be based on three types of evidence:

1. Non-Examined Assessments (NEAs) or Controlled Assessment Tasks (CATs): these have already taken place in some subjects and so we have this evidence. In some subjects the NEA/CAT will be taken or completed during the Summer Term. Some subjects don't have NEAs/CATs.
2. Adapted past papers. Past papers are an effective means of assessing pupils' attainment, because they have already been through a stringent process to ensure they meet assessment objectives and are fair and unbiased.
3. Other evidence. Almost any work that a pupil has undertaken, whether in school or at home, could be used as part of the range of evidence that determines their grade. However, this work will have less weighting than points 1 and 2, because it may not have been standardised or undertaken under supervised conditions. Other evidence is more likely to be used to *confirm* a grade rather than to *determine* the grade.

Taken together, the evidence used will have to cover the Assessment Objectives which have been established by the WJEC within the Assessment Framework for each subject.



Each subject will let pupils know:

- What content will be covered during the remainder of the course.
- What assessments will be used to assess pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills.
- When those assessments will take place.

We will coordinate the assessments centrally in school so that pupils don't have too many occurring at the same time. However, the time that we have left in school before we have to submit CDGs to the WJEC is not very long. It is worth remembering that adapted past papers are not the same as exams, because they will be undertaken in classrooms and spread over more than one lesson. However, they will be taken under strictly controlled conditions. So they are more like NEAs than exams.

All evidence will be subject to internal moderation and quality assurance to ensure that there are consistent and reliable assessments taking place within and between departments. Pupils will have to sign to verify that work is their own.

We will let pupils and their parents know their provisional CDG in every subject by 23rd June. There will then be a short time when pupils/parents can request a review of the evidence if they believe that we have not followed the correct process in determining a grade or have treated a pupil unfairly.

There will also be an external appeals process to the WJEC after results day on 12th August if a pupil/parent still believes that a proper process hasn't been followed or a mistake has been made.

One important question you may have is what happens if a pupil is absent when key assessments are taking place, for example if they are ill (possibly even with Covid-19). We will do everything we can to accommodate absentees within the time available once they return to school. However, there is limited time before we have to submit CDGs. If key assessments haven't been completed, we will determine the grade based on whatever evidence we have available. Of course, a grade is likely to suffer if one or more required Assessment Objectives haven't been met. As ever, pupils need to maximise their attendance in school in order to achieve their very best.

Access arrangements for pupils with specific learning difficulties and special consideration in very challenging circumstances will be available in the same way that they always are.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything in this letter, please get in touch with us.

Yours faithfully



ALAN TOOTILL
Headteacher