



22 March 2021

**Dear Year 11 Students, Parents and Carers,**

I am writing to provide you with more details as to the process that Fulford School will use in the awarding of grades for students this summer.

Grades for GCSEs, 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. Our school or college results 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 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. This assessment is then subject to both internal and external quality assurance before the final grade is awarded by the exam board on 12 August.

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.

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 is the standard that will be used during external quality assurance and appeals to ensure consistency and fairness across the system.

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 as part of the evidence, 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 (Non Examined Assessment), homework tasks, topic tests, mock exams and papers set by the exam boards. Different departments may use different sources of evidence and there is no requirement for any one type of assessment to be used.

In almost all subjects, there will be a final assessment that is scheduled to take place in early May. These will be limited to one 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 assessment 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.

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.

<b>GCSE Subject</b>	<b>Identified Sources of Evidence</b>
English Language	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<i>Assessment on Paper 1</i>
	<i>Assessment on Paper 2</i>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
English Literature	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<i>Assessment on Paper 2 'An Inspector Calls'</i>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
Mathematics	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<i>Non Calculator Assessment</i>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
Biology	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<i>Assessment task</i>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
Chemistry	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<i>Assessment task</i>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
Physics	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<i>Assessment task</i>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
Combined Science	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>

	<i>Assessment task</i>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
Art	<b>Component One (NEA) work</b>
Business Studies	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<i>Unit 6 Finance Assessment</i>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
Computer Science	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<i>Average Topic Test Grade</i>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
DT (Resistant Materials, Graphics and Textiles)	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<b>NEA</b>
	<i>Assessment tasks 1 &amp; 2</i>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
Drama	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<i>Practice paper</i>
	<b>NEA</b>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
Food Preparation and Nutrition	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<b>NEA</b>
	<i>Assessment tasks 1 and 2</i>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
French	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<i>Reading task</i>
	<i>Listening task 1 and 2</i>
	<i>Writing task</i>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
Geography	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
History	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
Music	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<b>NEA</b>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
Physical Education	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<b>NEA</b>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
Spanish	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Current Assessment Grade March</b>
	<i>Reading task</i>
	<i>Listening task 1 and 2</i>
	<i>Writing task</i>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>

<b>Vocational &amp; Short Course Subjects</b>	<b>Identified Sources of Evidence</b>
Religious Studies Short Course	<b>November Mock Exam Grade</b>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>
I-Media	<b>NEA (R082 and R084 grades)</b>
	<b>NEA</b>
Science (ELC)	<i>Assessment task</i>
	<b>Final Assessment Activity</b>

Evidence sources identified in italics are specific to that department. Staff will provide more details to students in relation to the nature of these activities. Students who are entitled to additional access arrangements for assessments will be given these in any upcoming assessment activity that they are asked to do.

At the time of sitting the November mock exams, we did not know that these results would be part of the evidence for the awarding of final grades and so it is important to emphasize that students will not be disadvantaged by their performance in these. Similarly, where a student has been unable to complete elements of the NEA due to lockdown restrictions, they will not be disadvantaged by this.

The Current Assessment Grade March is based on a combination of factors such as recent homework tasks, classwork, recent topic tests results.

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

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 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