

As we approach the culmination of 3 years of studying GCSE's and 5 years of secondary schooling I have been impressed and proud of how resilient, committed and engaged the vast majority of our year 11 students have been. With the unprecedented disruption and adaptations required to their learning they have continued to show versatility, tolerance and exceptional character. The main reason for writing is in order to provide an outline of the schedule leading up to Year 11 standdown, with some further key dates for your diary. Additionally, we have recently submitted our Centre Assessed Grades policy to the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). Full details of this policy is available on the Sherburn High School Website. However, within this communication I will endeavour to cover the key areas that you need to know at this time in relation to Centre Assessed Grades (CAG).

Roadmap for year 11

Date	Event
w/c 17 th May	PPE 3 and lessons
w/c 24 th May	PPE 3 and lessons
w/c 31st May	May Half Term
Tuesday 8 th June	Lessons as "normal"
Wednesday 9 th June	Lessons as "normal"
Thursday 10 th June	Morning – lessons as normal Afternoon - Leavers' Assembly and activities
Friday 11 th June	Sixth form induction day for those returning / considering returning Careers and next steps advice and guidance available on a booking system for students not planning to return to Sixth Form
Thursday 15 th July	Year 11 Prom (tickets are on sale via parent pay for eligible students)
Thursday 12 th August	Students receive their GCSE qualification (details to follow)

Centre Assessed Grades (CAG)

At the end of February 2021, the Government and Ofqual released guidance which directed schools to award a 'Centre Assessed Grade' (CAG) by **Friday 18 June 2021** for each subject that a student was due to certificate in this summer, in place of external examinations. The CAGs will be reviewed by the Awarding Bodies (Examination Boards) and will be subject, where necessary, to moderation and potential alteration. Students will receive their results for the GCSE qualifications on **Thursday 12 August 2021**.

How are grades being determined this summer?

A student's overall grade in each of their subjects will be based on professional judgement, considering a range of specific evidence of the standard of that student's work.

There are some differences between subjects and qualification types in terms of the number and nature of sources of evidence; exam boards expect this because of the different ways courses are assessed. However, in most subjects, grades will be based predominantly on results from assessments done under high controlled examination conditions as indicated below

- November 2020 PPE 1 (mock exams)
- March 2021 PPE2 (mocks exams)
- May 2021 PPE 3 (mocks exams)
- NEA (coursework) where applicable

We also recognise that for some subjects, other pieces of high control exam-based assessment may support judgements, but these will carry less weighting than PPE exams. There are some exceptions, for example GCSE Art is based on portfolio and some vocational courses are generally unit based and may already have some elements where grades have been "banked" with the exam board. The main reason we have chosen these sources of evidence is that they are consistent for all students in the cohort. We can ensure that access arrangements are in place, authenticate work as the student's own and mark and standardise against exam board mark schemes/criteria. We believe, under the current circumstances, this is the fairest way to ensure judgements are objective when determining grades this summer.

Student absence

Students will not be disadvantaged because of any self-isolation period, for those individuals that are in this position, we are entitled to use alternative forms of evidence to allocate Centre Assessed Grades. As students have had the opportunity to sit 3 sets of PPE, at 3 separate occasions, there are very few instances where we envisage not having enough PPE data to inform of a CAG.

It is important that students are present in school every day, in particular for these final PPE 3 exams, unless they are unable to attend for a medical reason, or due to self-isolation, or another mitigating circumstance. It is important to state that where a student has an unauthorised absence and alternative arrangements have not been possible, this may negatively affect a student's Teacher Assessed Grade in a subject.

Weighting

It is important to note, the judgement about the final grade is holistic, so it is not as straightforward as taking a simple arithmetic average of all sources of evidence. Some papers carry more weighting than others, all have been subject to moderation. We will only be using evidence from the curriculum covered and we have ensured assessments have been compiled to represent this.

Quality Assurance

Internal and external quality assurance processes are in place to ensure that this year's process for assessing and grading students is fair, consistent and robust within schools and across schools nationally. Assessments are marked using external mark schemes, grade descriptors and grade boundaries to ensure that standards of work are consistently judged. Marked work, scores and grades are moderated by all subject areas. All submitted Centre Assessed Grades will be checked by Curriculum Leaders, the leadership team subject link and then finally myself and Ms Oakley to benchmark their result against their PPE marks and other assessed material.

Will students be told their grades?

Schools are not allowed to discuss or share final grades with students or parents/carers until the official release date in August. To do this would be classed as malpractice. Equally, students and parents/carers should not ask for this information or pressurise teachers to comment on what they think their most likely grade will be as this is also considered to be malpractice and could jeopardise the release of grades. Although students will have gained some knowledge of performance from assessments undertaken prior to March, this will only form part of the evidence base.

Post results

We hope that the information above provides you with confidence in the process we and the examination boards have put in place to determine grades this summer. In turn, we envisage there will only be very limited grounds for appeal. Details of the appeal process can be found in the JCQ guide for students, parents and guardians. Grades after an appeal can stay the same or go up or down. If students are not happy with any of the grades they achieve, Ofqual have just announced that there will be an Autumn Series of exams giving opportunity to improve upon the grade awarded in Summer.

Where a parent/carer has a query directly in relation to the Teacher Assessed Grade process or wishes to support their child in making a representation, or an appeal, they should read the Student Representation and Appeals Policy available on the Sherburn High School Website

if you have any questions, or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me and thank you for your continued support and I'm sure you reiterate with me in wishing our students well in these final few weeks.

Kind regards,

Mr Ralphs

Deputy Headteacher