

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

A Leading Edge Technology & Applied Learning College
Mill Lane, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, NE31 2ET
Telephone: 0191 428 2700



Email: Office@stjosephs.uk.net
Web: www.stjosephs.uk.net
Fax: 0191 428 4053

Headteacher: Mr P Mitchell
Chair of Governors: Mrs G Kilgour

26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We understand that many of you will feel anxious about this summer's exam grading, but we hope this letter provides you with more certainty and reassurance. As you may know, the Secretary of State for Education has announced more detail on plans for the awarding of grades.

We now know the following:

- There will be no externally set GCSE and A Level exams this summer (something which was announced in January).
- The grades will be based on teachers' assessments of the standards that students are currently working at.
- We will be using a range of evidence to inform our assessments, so grades will never be based on a single result in a mock examination or class assessment.
- We will not be assessing students on any new content that they have not previously covered. However, we may teach some additional subject content where we feel it would benefit students who are moving on to further education (A levels/Degree) or career pathways.

The following scheduled times will be used to build on our range of evidence for Year 11 and Year 13 students, adding to the information that we already have:

- W/C 22/03/21- Key Task week
- Early May Key Task week

These key tasks will not determine final grades: they will be used to further ensure that the grades we award are fair and accurate. We already have a range of other evidence that will contribute towards the final grades we give to our students, for example, classroom-based assessments; previous practice exam papers and NEA (coursework) pieces for Year 13.

By Easter, the exam boards will be providing schools with some additional exam questions which we can use if they wish. We may decide to use these if we feel they are fair for our students and if we require further evidence. We will make these decisions once we have seen what the additional questions look like. It is absolutely our intention is to ensure that every Year 11 and Year 13 student in our care has the opportunity to demonstrate what they can do.

The school will run an internal moderation and standardisation process within departments to ensure that the submitted grades are fair. Schools must submit all grades to the exam boards by 18th June. As directed by the DfE, students and parents unfortunately cannot be told grades at this stage. The exam boards will choose a sample of schools and look at the evidence and procedures they have used to further ensure that grades have been awarded fairly.

Parents/Carers: Stay Alert. Keep your child at home if they have Covid-19 symptoms. Stay Safe.

St Joseph's Catholic Academy

A Leading Edge Technology & Applied Learning College
Mill Lane, Hebburn, Tyne and Wear, NE31 2ET
Telephone: 0191 428 2700



Email: Office@stjosephs.uk.net
Web: www.stjosephs.uk.net
Fax: 0191 428 4053

Headteacher: Mr P Mitchell
Chair of Governors: Mrs G Kilgour

Exam results will be published on:

- Tuesday 10th August for A Level results
- Thursday 12th August for GCSE results

Further information will be released nearer the time about how results will be given out. There will be an appeals system for any student who believes that their grade has not been fairly awarded. The earlier exam results dates provide time for Year 13 students to have any appeals dealt with before university places are finalised. More information on the appeals process can be found on page 15 of this linked Ofqual document:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/965005/6747-1_decisions_-_GQ_consultation_on_awarding_grades_in_2021.pdf

We hope that this information is a reassurance for you and your child that the exam results this year will be a fair reflection of their performance and ability. We would like to repeat that we will use a range of evidence to determine grades – we will not use one single assessment.

There may be more detail that emerges from the DfE and Ofqual in the coming days: we will, of course, keep you as fully informed as we can with any developments.

As always, we hugely appreciate your continuing understanding and patience over this most strange and difficult of years.

Yours faithfully,

Mr P Mitchell
(Headteacher)

Parents/Carers: Stay Alert. Keep your child at home if they have Covid-19 symptoms. Stay Safe.