March 2021 Year 11 and 13 assessed grades

Dear Parents and Carers

I write with information about our approach to establishing centre-assessed grades for your child.

Information from the exam boards for **GCSE and A Level qualifications** is as follows:

* *Teachers need to assess their students’ performance - based only on what has been taught - to determine the grade each student should receive.*
* *Teachers can use evidence of a student’s performance from throughout the course to inform their judgement. This can include work completed remotely where it is appropriate.*
* *Schools and colleges should use a broad range of evidence for each student, for each subject studied, to determine their individual grades.*
* *Students should continue to work on their non-exam assessment (NEA), including for Project qualifications. NEA will be marked by teachers and will contribute to the overall grade, whether or not it’s been completed.*

We have assessed your child throughout their courses of study and have a range of ‘key task’ evidence for each subject. The have also completed some assessed work while undertaking remote learning. However, we must continue to allow students to demonstrate the progress that they have made throughout their courses and provide additional assessment opportunities in the coming weeks. We have worked with our partner secondary schools in the Trust to establish an assessment strategy for our year 11 and 13 students. This strategy will use a number of forms of assessment to provide further robust and standardised evidence to establish teacher-assessed grades for each student. The assessments will include:

* A key task before the Easter break – these follow our normal Modular structure
* Key tasks following the Easter break and within our Modular structure
* A series of timetabled summative assessments in week commencing Monday 4th of May. Where appropriate for these assessment students will be provided reference materials to use as a resource to answer the questions. This ensures that we are focusing on assessing understanding and application of knowledge.

Any assessments will take place with their teachers in classrooms, during lesson time, but will be in test conditions. Where a student is entitled to Exams access arrangements we will ensure it is in place. Subject teachers will provide revision lists and materials to students to ensure that students are fully and thoroughly prepared.

For **Art,** **BTECs and other vocational qualifications,** we will continue to work on portfolio evidence to allow students to demonstrate their progress with these courses. There will be no summative assessments for these qualifications.

Following the assessment period, there will be a thorough standardisation process across subjects and with partner school involvement for additional external validation. This will ensure that our centre-assessed grades are fair, robust and accurate.

We will continue to support our students throughout these difficult circumstances and will ensure that the nature and purpose of each type of assessment is fully understood by all. We are determined to ensure that we provide sufficient opportunities for our students to demonstrate fully the progress that they have made and the grades that they are deserving of. If you have any questions about our assessment strategy, please email office@stjosephs.uk.net

Many thanks for your support during this challenging time.

Kind regards

Mr D McGuinness

Assistant Head Teacher