

## Update on Summer 2021 Assessments

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on the plans for awarding assessments in Summer 2021 following the Government's publication of its response to the recent consultation. In all matters we are closely following the guidance provided by Ofqual's consultation decisions on how qualification grades will be determined in summer 2021.

### GCSE English and Maths Exam Grades

For current College students due to be sitting their GCSE English and Maths exams this summer, we know that this is a very unsettling time for them. Ofqual has now confirmed that teachers will assess the standard at which students are performing which will form part of a rigorous process for the College to submit an assessed grade (TAG). Teachers' judgements will be based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that students have covered, either in the classroom or via remote learning. The TAG will then be subject to rigorous internal and external moderation processes to ensure consistency and robustness of approach. Please see the infographic below for more details:

How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021

Ofqual/21/6/51/2

| Working out your grade  | Evidence  | Results and appeals   |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Graded by teacher judgement</li> <li>Not graded by an algorithm</li> <li>School and college assessments can continue</li> <li>You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught</li> <li>Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you</li> <li>Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence</li> <li>Non-exam assessment should continue</li> <li>Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete</li> <li>Art &amp; design grade based only on your portfolio</li> <li>Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to</li> <li>Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Results days</b><br/>AS and A level 10 August<br/>GCSE 12 August</li> <li>If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.</li> <li>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</li> <li><a href="http://www.gov.uk/ofqual">www.gov.uk/ofqual</a></li> </ul> |

Teachers will use evidence about students' performance gathered throughout the course to inform their judgement. This will include formal assessments undertaken in December and February, forthcoming May mock assessments, homework and in-class tests. All written evidence should be submitted by Friday 28 May 2021 to allow for marking and standardisation prior to submission of TAGs to the awarding organisation. We will of course ensure that any agreed access arrangements are taken into account where relevant.

We want to ensure that all students have the opportunity to produce sufficient high-quality evidence to support the teacher assessed grade process. It is therefore important that students keep engaged in learning and study for as long as possible so that all work can be considered towards their grade. The exam boards will put in place robust quality assurance protocols to ensure fairness throughout the Country and Ofqual has confirmed that "Overall, it will be no easier or harder for a student to achieve a particular grade this year compared to previous years."

We have scheduled a Microsoft Teams Live Event for 22 April at 6pm as an opportunity for students, parents and carers to ask any questions they may have related to the TAG process for GCSEs. You should already have received a link to this event but please let us know if not.

## Vocational and Technical Qualification (VTQ) Grades

We understand that this will also be a very uncertain and unsettling time for our students taking vocational and technical qualifications and please be reassured that we are doing everything we can to ensure that they are well supported and are given the best possible chance to achieve the results that they deserve.

Ofqual has recently published additional guidance for Centres re. awarding qualifications and grades for students studying vocational and technical qualifications, for example, BTECs, City and Guild qualifications and functional skills. The landscape for VTQs is complex as these qualifications can serve many purposes. Different approaches will be taken to 3 broad groups of VTQs as shown in the infographic below:



Students’ course leaders will confirm which approach will be apply for individual qualifications. In addition, Ofqual has now published its qualification explainer tool here [Summer 2021 Qualification Explainer Tool \(ofqual.gov.uk\)](https://www.ofqual.gov.uk/summer-2021-qualification-explainer-tool/) which you can use to search for information relating to individual qualifications.

Where students’ qualifications will be awarded through a Teacher Assessed Grade (TAG) process, teachers will use a variety of evidence, including completed internally assessed units and assignments, in-class work and mock assessments to propose an initial TAG reflecting the standard at which students are performing. This will then be subject to robust internal and external moderation and standardisation.

Course leaders will confirm with students the specific portfolio of evidence that will be taken into account for the TAG process but please be aware that, for most qualifications, written evidence should be submitted by Friday 28 May 2021 to allow time for marking and internal moderation prior to submission to the awarding organisations. Students will

continue learning with us after they have submitted evidence for the TAG process and course leaders will give students details of all the exciting activities we have planned.

Where Vocational and Technical qualifications are not awarded through a TAG process, on-campus assessments will continue to take place in line with public health Covid secure guidelines.

Ofqual has clarified that we must not advise students of the grades that we are submitting as part of the TAG process. Results for Level 3 Vocational and Technical Qualifications will be issued on 10 August 2021. For Level 2 qualifications such as GCSEs and Level 2 Vocational and Technical Qualifications the results will be issued on 12 August 2021.

Of course, there are still understandable ongoing concerns and anxieties but in working together we can ensure that students do achieve and meet their potential. They have been overwhelmingly brilliant in continuing to engage through to this point and it is so important that their resilience and determination does not in any way lessen at this point.

We will continue to update this page as more information becomes available and if you have any concerns/questions about how specific qualifications will be awarded this summer, please speak to the student's course leader in the first instance. Please also be assured that we will continue to do all we can to ensure that the students are able to achieve the results they deserve.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J. Craig". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping 'J' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

**Jenny Craig**

**Deputy Principal**