

10 February 2021

Dear Year 11 Student & Parents/Carers

## **Year 11 – Assessing Grades for Summer 2021 Examinations**

I hope that this letter finds you and your wider family well despite the challenges of the Covid-19 lockdown and the difficulties of completing KS4 at this time. If there are any immediate concerns please remember that the Year 11 Progress Team are always available to support you ([pastoral.year11@jstc.org.uk](mailto:pastoral.year11@jstc.org.uk)). The Government has outlined that teachers will need to base the grades that they allocate to Year 11 students on a range of evidence.

Year 11 students took their first mock exams before Christmas. We would not necessarily expect the results of these to be representative of the performance of the student as the year progresses. The second mock examinations are unlikely to take place in the usual format as there is little teaching time as a result of the current lockdown. It is therefore essential that we plan how to prepare the evidence for grade allocation for each Year 11 student.

### **How will students' grades be assessed by their teachers?**

Students need to build up a bank of evidence so that staff can accurately assess the grades to be given for each subject. How this evidence is gathered will depend on the subject/course.

***BTEC (eg Business) and OCR (eg Sport) courses;*** students need to ensure that they complete the assignments to a good standard. Teachers will guide students as to which assignments need to be completed and by when.

***GCSEs with practical components (eg Food, DT subjects, Engineering, Art);*** practical components of the course are usually a good way for students to show their knowledge and skills. This may include making a product or meal, or completing a section of their portfolio. Teachers will guide students as to which components they will need to focus on and when to complete these. Some of this may occur outside of normal lesson time and may include sessions during the holiday periods eg Easter School.

***Core GCSEs (eg, English, Maths, Sciences, History, Geography, MFL);*** these subjects will ask students to complete set lessons and then take an assessment. By working in class with the content, guided by teachers and then taking the assessment, students will be able to show what they understand. The learning could be undertaken in virtual lessons with the assessment completed immediately after. It is therefore essential that students attend all virtual lessons.



As assessments are likely to be completed at home in the first instance, students will need access to a laptop. If students do not have individual access to a laptop (eg sharing with someone else in the household also completing home learning) please let school know as a matter of urgency.

**Please remember that without this bank of evidence students may not receive the grade they are depending on to move to the post-16 course of their choice.**

Yours sincerely



Joyce Shorrocks (Ms)  
Headteacher

