



**KING EDWARD VI  
NORTHFIELD  
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS**

*Educational excellence for our City*

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14<sup>th</sup> March, 2021

Dear Parent or Carer

Please find the enclosed copy of your child's Spring Term Assessment Data and comments to improve.

**This is not a record of the final grades that will be awarded in the summer but an indication of the current situation for your child based on the evidence so far.**

During the next few months lots of work will take place in lessons around practice examination questions, mini-assessments and in-class work to enable the teachers to arrive at a fair Centre Assessed Grade that fully reflects the hard work and ability of your child.

Below are some frequently asked questions that might come some way to explain the process:

**1. How will grades be awarded this summer?**

Grades for GCSEs other KS4 qualifications will be based on a process involving teacher assessment against national standards, internal quality assurance, and external quality assurance by the exam boards.

The national process defined by the Department for Education and the exams' regulator, Ofqual is as follows:

- Teachers will **assess students against a national standard**, which will be defined by the exam boards before the Easter break.
- Departments will submit grades which will be **quality assured by the school**. This process will have to be signed off by the exam board to ensure it is rigorous and in line with national standards.
- Our school results will be **quality assured externally** by the exam boards, which may include random sampling of our school's evidence.
- If the exam boards are confident in our submitted results, **then the exam boards will award students their final grades**.
- If students do not think their results are accurate, they will have the right to **appeal**.

**2. So, do teachers award the grade?**

**Simply: no.** The grades awarded will start with their teacher's assessment of their performance across a range of evidence. This is against a nationally-defined standard, not the teacher's own opinion. This assessment is then subject to both internal and external quality assurance before the final grade is awarded by the exam body as usual.

Headteacher: Mr Neil Jones



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### **3. Are grades decided by an algorithm?**

No, grades will not be changed by a formula. There is no limit on the achievement of your child, providing there is evidence that they are working at that grade.

### **4. What about loss of learning / impact of Covid?**

This year, teachers will only assess students on what they have been taught – because of the continued disruption of the pandemic. This means no-one will be disadvantaged if they individually, their whole class or whole year group have been unable to complete their full course.

However, grades can only be submitted on the basis of the evidence we have of their performance, even if that evidence covers less of the course than usual.

Anyone who would usually have extra time in the exams will benefit from the same arrangements in teacher assessment.

### **5. Will grades be different between different schools?**

No, the standard against which teachers will be assessing students is set nationally by the exam boards. This is the standard that will be used during external quality assurance and appeals to ensure consistency and fairness across the system.

### **6. What evidence will be used?**

Teachers are able to draw on a range of assessment evidence from across the course, up until 28<sup>th</sup> May (half-term). This may include homework tasks, mini-assessments, and papers set by the exam boards. We will also be using evidence from before the second lockdown, as well as new evidence from March – June.

The exam boards are producing assessment materials that will be sent to us before Easter. Different departments may use different sources of evidence, and we can use as wide a range of evidence as we can gather. It's about a performance across a range of evidence, not just against one assessment.

### **7. The exam boards are only giving out past papers, is this fair?**

Most of the assessments provided by the exam boards will be drawn from past papers, although there will be new questions as well. There is significant research that even if students have seen assessment questions before, it does not reduce the validity of the assessment. Furthermore, exam board questions are only one of the many pieces of evidence we will use to assess your child's grades this summer.

### **8. Can students and parents make the case for why a student should get a higher grade?**

Our teachers are already using their professional expertise to assess students on the content they have been taught. Teachers are unable to submit higher grades unless they have the evidence that they are consistently working at this level. If teachers submit higher grades without evidence, they are committing exam malpractice.



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**9. Can students discuss their grades with teachers?**

Teachers will be able to discuss which evidence they are using to inform their judgement including marked or graded pieces of work. **However, we are not allowed to disclose their final submitted grade we give to the exam board.**

**10. What should your child do to improve their grades?**

The best thing that they can do is to continue to attend classes, learn, act on feedback from their teachers, revise and try their very best. Their grade will be based on their performance, and so their outcomes are ultimately in their own hands.

**11. When are the grades awarded?**

This year, the exam results day is **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> August 2021.**

Please be assured that we want the best possible outcomes for your child so that they are able to move onto their chosen post-16 courses or employment. We will continue provide all the support we can at this time.

I hope that this goes someway in making the process a little clearer. If you do have any queries, then please contact either Mrs McAuley or myself.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jacqueline Hall'.

Jacqueline Hall  
Acting Headteacher