

5 March 2021

Dear Parents /Carers,

Qualification Information 2021 for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13

On Thursday 25th February, Ofqual released their response to the 2021 exam consultations for GCSE, AS Level, A Level and vocational qualifications.

The GCSE, AS Level and A Level response can be found [here](#) and the vocational response can be found [here](#). These are very lengthy documents, so the DfE have provided a helpful summary which I would recommend [here](#).

There are 3 basic principles to be followed from the consultation outcomes:

1. Enable students, through high quality face-to-face or remote teaching and learning, to have acquired the knowledge and skills for their progression.
2. Facilitate assessments that test what has been taught to allow students to show their teachers what knowledge and skills they have. These results should form part of the evidence for the Centre Assessed Grades (CAG) process.
3. Generate CAGs for all subjects needed that are fair for all and that are supported by the evidence base that we have for each student.

GCSE and A Level Centre Assessed Grades Information for Years 11, 12 (Further Maths) and 13

The Centre Assessed Grades will be based upon evidence collected throughout the 2-year courses, supported by a set of assessments facilitated in school over the coming months. These assessment grades will be used as supporting evidence for the CAG process, but not the basis for it.

As a school, we are confident in our knowledge of the students and their abilities based on the data we have gathered during the 2-year courses. Therefore, the rationale behind all of the CAG planning has been to enable our students to show their capabilities in the best light. This will be achieved by assessing the students in classrooms and testing smaller, familiar chunks of content in a format that is familiar to students. We will facilitate this testing through scheduled assessment weeks once students return to school. There will be no new content taught whilst the assessment weeks are being taking place so that teachers can lead subject specific revision that supports the assessments. Students with exam access arrangements will have full access to what they need and I will write to the parents concerned separately next week with details.

Students will follow their usual timetable and Curriculum Leaders will schedule the assessments in lesson time and this will be communicated to students. As in normal assessment weeks, not all tests for a subject will happen at the same time, however, as we know from our everyday practice, knowledge of what's on the paper doesn't differentiate the students, the questions themselves do. Curriculum Leaders will give any additional support required, such as enhanced formula sheets, reading books or texts for use in assessments. . All information linked to this will be shared clearly with students during preparation in lessons and be applied consistently.

Subjects with NEA (coursework) will have their submissions marked and these will support the CAG process. We will stick to the published submission deadlines and I will write to you with more subject specific detail in the coming weeks. After the assessment weeks, teachers will go back to finish teaching the knowledge and skills needed for students' progression.

Teachers will not be able to share marks and grades from these assessments or discuss predicted grades until results days in August. Please do not contact subject teachers or Curriculum Leaders about CAGs, if you have any questions regarding the CAGs, contact me (Mrs Fletcher-Woods) through admin@qehs.net. It is important to remember that the main basis for the CAGs will come from the wealth of evidence that we already hold on each student and these assessments will allow students to show themselves at their best. As is our usual practice, marking will be moderated and checked across departments and we will be using exam board produced questions and mark schemes for our assessments.

All schools will have to follow guidance from exam boards on a quality assurance process and we are awaiting guidance from the boards about this process. From results days (10th August AS and A Level, 12th August GCSE), students will be able to follow an appeals process. We will share information about the appeals process nearer the time.

GCSE Calendar

Week Commencing	Year 11
08-Mar	Revision
15-Mar	Revision
22-Mar	Core assessment week
29-Mar	Easter
05-Apr	Easter
12-Apr	Non-core assessment week
19-Apr	Core assessment week
26-Apr	Non-core assessment week
03-May	Knowledge for progression
Onwards	Knowledge for progression

A Level Calendar (including AS Further Maths)

Week Commencing	Year 13 and Year 12 FM
08-Mar	Revision
15-Mar	Revision
22-Mar	Assessment week
29-Mar	Easter
05-Apr	Easter
12-Apr	Revision
19-Apr	Assessment week
26-Apr	Revision
03-May	Assessment week
Onwards	Knowledge for progression

Enhancements for Year 12s

The EPQ projects have now all been handed in. The presentations, the final part of the project, are being completed over the coming few weeks in lessons. The EPQs will be marked by the supervisors, with CAGs generated by these marks.

For Grade 8 Music Theory, the exam will go ahead.

For Sports Leaders and Arts Award, we're awaiting guidance from the awarding bodies.

BTEC/OCR plan for Year 11 and Year 13

Learning for these qualifications needs to continue in lessons, even if the assessment is cancelled. For both exam boards, the students need to cover the learning in the units, so coursework must be finished for the current units.

Students in Year 13 who sat **BTEC** exams in January will be able to decide to keep or discard their result if they feel they have underperformed. If they discard their result, or did not sit the exam, their teacher will follow exam board guidance on how to proceed.

Results day for the January exams is 17th March and students can get their results from the exams office. We are waiting for more guidance regarding the BTEC/OCRs over the coming weeks.

BTEC/OCR for Year 10 and 12 for certification in 2022

Many students taking BTEC or OCR courses in years 10 and 12 were due to have assessments in the summer - either exams or coursework submissions and summer exams have been cancelled.

The outcome from the recent consultation was keen to point out that students in Years 10 and 12 should be treated in a similar way to those completing courses, and that they should also not be disadvantaged.

We are waiting for details on how these units of work need to be assessed and reported to the exam boards, and will keep you informed.

I'll be in touch in the coming weeks with more specific information.

Yours,

Mrs Fletcher-Woods

Associate Assistant Headteacher