

20th January 2021

Re: OfQual and Summer 2021 Assessment Update

Dear Student and Parents/Carers,

The College has committed to keeping you as informed as possible of developments in terms of the arrangements for public examinations and assessment in the summer of 2021. To that end, the Government has now launched a short period of consultation, asking schools and colleges for their views on a number of proposals for alternative assessment and grading arrangements relating to GCSE, AS and A levels, as well as for Vocational and Technical Qualifications. Whilst the consultations contain broad ideas, final decisions by OfQual and the Department for Education will be made after consultation closes on Friday 29th January 2021 and it is expected that actual arrangements will be confirmed by late February 2021. In the meantime, it is essential to focus our energies on completing courses and all work as currently planned.

The Government have stated, as a broad principle, that “Grades must reflect what a student knows, understands and can do, and they must be widely understood and respected. In place of exams in summer 2021 we propose that a student’s grade in a subject will be based on their teacher’s assessment of the standard at which they are performing.”

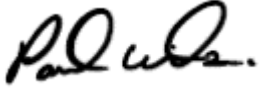
The proposals stress that students should continue their courses for the full academic year, with there most likely being final assessments made by their teachers in a period beginning in May and running through into early June. Alongside this, there are proposals that teachers will be supported and guided in this process, including through the availability of tests and assessments provided to them, along with external quality assurance by the exam boards that is likely to take place throughout June. Vocational courses of the type offered by the College are likely to be treated in a similar way to A levels and GCSEs, being based on the standard that students have shown they are performing at through the course. In many ways assessment in these courses already operate in broadly this way and are mostly based on teacher assessments.

Whilst exact arrangements are not yet decided, it is clear the work that students do between now and the summer is going to play an important part in the grades that are awarded. The consultation also proposes that assessment should be across a broad range of the course content and it is, therefore, extremely important that students continue to attend all lessons and work as hard as possible from now until the end of their courses.

Please remember that you have support available to you, including through teachers and your PPM. We will continue to keep you informed as more information enters the public domain from the appropriate sources. Whilst there may be ongoing speculation in the media, some of that may be unreliable or unfounded and we aim to update you as actual decision on assessment arrangements

emerge in due course. Your teachers are already well placed to support you and are ready to respond appropriately to the arrangements that do emerge later this term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Wilson'.

Paul Wilson
PRINCIPAL