

26 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been fantastic to welcome back our Year 11 pupils back to school. We have been so pleased with our pupils' engagement, effort and commitment with online learning. We are equally so proud of the resilience and determination that they have shown through this challenging time in their final year at school.

We recognise that some of you may be a little worried, or have questions, regarding how GCSE grades will be awarded in 2021. However, we would like to reassure you that we are taking every step to ensure that the guidance set out by Ofqual and the Department for Education will be adhered to, and that every pupil in Year 11 will be thoroughly prepared and supported in this process.

Following all guidance, we would like to outline how we will be gathering a range of evidence for centre assessed grades. Grades will be determined based on a range of evidence relating to the subject knowledge and content that teachers have delivered in each subject. This may include work that has already been completed such as mock examinations or in class assessments. Therefore, in most subjects, apart from practical and vocational subjects, there will be three main components to the evidence for centre assessed grades. These components are:

1. Previous mock examination results (Year 10 and Year 11 November mock examinations 2020)
2. Portfolio of classwork / past papers / coursework included NEA (Non Examined Assessment)
3. Final end of year summative assessments

In both the portfolio of work and the final end of year assessments, teachers will use exam board material to assess pupils, ensuring that assessment objectives are covered. Pupils will only be assessed on what has been taught, and the content covered in each subject will prepare and enable pupils to progress in their next steps in education.

The final end of year summative assessments will take place during the week beginning Monday 3 May and week beginning Monday 7 May. The timetable for these assessments will be issued to pupils and parents in the first week back at school after Easter. It is therefore essential that all pupils are revising and preparing thoroughly for these final assessments in order to demonstrate best what they know and what they can do. In school, teachers will be carrying out clear targeted revision and support over the coming weeks. As well as our Year 11 lunch time and after school revision sessions continuing, all subject areas have outlined specific revision resources and work to be completed over Easter that will additionally help to prepare, guide and support our pupils with their final assessments. This document is also available on our website.

Final grades determined from the components outlined above, will be submitted to the exam board by 18 June. All grades submitted by departments will be quality assured by the school, ensuring time for a rigorous, robust and unbiased process of marking, moderation and standardisation. Attached to this letter, also enclosed is a useful information leaflet from Ofqual that summarises the process of how GCSEs will be awarded in 2021.

Bishopton Road West, Stockton-on-Tees  
T: 01642 704970  
E: [enquiries@ourladyandstbede.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ourladyandstbede.org.uk)  
W: [www.ourladyandstbede.org.uk](http://www.ourladyandstbede.org.uk)



**OUR LADY & ST. BEDE**  
CATHOLIC ACADEMY

Headteacher: M Wilkinson  
CEO: M Regan OBE, DL M.Ed., B.Ed (Hons), FCIEA, CEA  
Deputy CEO: M Shorten M.Ed., BA (Hons)  
Chair of Directors: J Wilson BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

During the forthcoming weeks we are confident that all pupils will feel guided and fully supported, to help them achieve their best. Following the Easter holidays, I will write to you again with additional information and / or any updates. However, if you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

I wish you and your families a prayerful, restful and happy Easter.

Yours sincerley

Mrs D Burns  
Deputy Headteacher

