

23rd March 2021

Dear Parent/carer,

I am writing to inform you how the grading process will work this summer for Y11 and Y13 external qualifications and what steps we have taken so far and will be doing in the forthcoming weeks.

The exam boards have asked us to consider the standard at which each student has performed over the course of study. This judgement should be based on the evidence of a student's performance on the subject content which they have been taught, whether in the classroom or via remote learning. The evidence can include work which has already been completed during the course as well as that which will be completed in the weeks to come. The judgements have to be objective and based on the evidence produced by a student. We must have the evidence of the standard a student is working at and not just what we think they might be able to achieve. Most of this evidence will need to be obtained in the next half term. We will then be required to submit a grade for each student.

Schools are currently still waiting on exam boards to provide further advice and guidance to exemplify the standard of work, including additional grade descriptors and exemplar materials.

Subject leaders across The de Ferrers Trust have been compiling the evidence they wish to use for each qualification, taking into account that this needs to be a range of evidence across the taught content. These will be quality assured by senior trust leaders.

The types of assessment evidence we can use, include:

1. Exam board assessment material, including groups of questions, past papers or similar materials such as practice or sample papers.
2. Non-exam assessment (NEA) work, even if this has not been fully completed.
3. School devised tasks that reflect the specification and follow the same format as exam board materials.
4. Records of a student's capability and performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects such as music, drama and PE.
5. Records of each student's progress and performance over the course of study, this could include PPE grades.

We will inform students and parents before the Easter holidays on how students will be assessed in each subject to avoid any confusion and to be as transparent as possible in how grades will be awarded.

No formal assessments will be taking place before Easter, this is to ensure that we are being fair to students and that they can fully prepare.

In the 6 weeks between Easter and May half term, students will undertake a series of assessments in



each qualification they study. This will allow time for final moderation and quality assurance checking prior to final grade submission on 18th June.

As part of our overall quality assurance, we will moderate students' assessments across groups of teachers and across The de Ferrers Trust to ensure that all students are given the grade they deserve. We have also been asked by Ofqual to consider the grades for this year's cohort compared to cohorts from previous years when exams have taken place to check that we have not been overly harsh or lenient in our assessment of the 2021 cohort compared to previous years.

As the grade awarded to a student must reflect the assessment evidence gathered, it is vitally important that all students prepare fully for these forthcoming assessments as they would have done if they had sat external exams. Although the assessments will not take place in the exam hall and will often be shorter than external exams, the grades that students will be awarded will reflect the grades they achieve in these assessments. Students should be revising the content they have been taught and instructed to by their teachers so they can maximise their potential.

Prior to Easter, further information will be available regarding assessed content. This will be published on the website and via class teachers.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CR Allen', written in a cursive style.

Chris Allen
Vice Principal – Performance
Trust Leader Assessment, 11-19