



DEYES
HIGH
SCHOOL

LYDIATE
LEARNING TRUST

Deyes High School
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15th March 2021

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

We are so glad to have Y11 back with us and now that they are settled I would like to share with you some further details on how students will be awarded grades for their Key Stage 4 courses this year.

KS4 Summer Examination Grading 2021

The Government and Ofqual (the qualifications, examinations, and assessments regulator) have announced their plans for grading GCSEs, A Levels and Vocational & Technical Qualifications (VTQs) this summer. The guidance that schools and colleges will be required to follow is designed to ensure students receive grades that are fair and enable them to progress to the next stage of their education, employment or training. Outlined below is a summary of the key information.

How students will be assessed

- Students will be assessed only on the curriculum content they have been taught
- Students' grades will reflect the standard at which they are currently working (rather than predicting how they would have performed if they had sat examinations)
- Evidence from students' performance throughout their courses may be used to inform assessed grades
- Teachers will draw on a broad range of evidence when making professional judgements about grades and centres will tell students the evidence on which their grades will be based
- For subjects with non-examination assessment (for example, coursework or practical components) this will be internally marked (but not moderated by the examination boards) and will provide evidence to support grading
- The examination boards will provide schools with additional assessments (past paper questions and unpublished questions) for all subjects which they may choose to use in class to assess students' knowledge and understanding of content they have been taught
- For students in receipt of access arrangements, they will be applied to any assessments taken during the summer term
- GCSE Art grades will be determined entirely on portfolio work
- Students will continue to receive an endorsement (separate to their grade) for GCSE English Language (Speaking), GCSE Modern Languages (Speaking).

Quality Assurance

Schools and colleges will be required to implement internal quality assurance procedures to ensure that fair and reasonable academic judgement has been applied through a process involving rigorous moderation. The internal process will also be moderated by the examination boards. We will also carry out moderation with external partners to provide another layer of professional assessment and moderation. The examination boards will only issue results once they are satisfied by the quality assurance process and they may make changes to grades if they determine that they are not a 'reasonable exercise of academic judgement'.



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Appeals

Whilst we hope this will not be necessary, students will be able to appeal against their grades. The appeal process is initially a request to the school from the student to check for any administrative errors. If a student would like to proceed further, the school would submit an appeal to the examination board on behalf of the student. Examination boards will only amend the grade if they find that the grade awarded was not a 'reasonable exercise of academic judgement.' A grade may go down as well as up at appeal.

Vocational & Technical Qualifications (VTQs)

An approach similar to grading GCSEs will be adopted for vocational courses such as BTECs; applying the same approach to quality assurance and moderation. Teachers will make professional judgements on the grade's students will receive using a variety of evidence, including performance in tasks or assessments (internal and external) that have already been completed.

Results Days

GCSE/Level 2 results day will be Thursday 12 August 2021.

Formal examinations have been cancelled; however, it will be necessary for teachers to gather evidence of the knowledge and understanding of the content students have been taught in order to make accurate and fair professional judgements on grades. To support this evidence base, Year 11 will be undertaking key assessments in all subjects next week and again in the week beginning 10th May 2021. However, all the work they do in the next half term is vital to the decision-making process.

We are in the process of planning a Year **11 parents' evening on Thursday 29th April**. This will be an opportunity to discuss progress, areas for improvement and how to evidence this during the final weeks in school.

As more information becomes available from examination boards, we will share more detail with you about the approach we will take at Deyes High School to ensure all our students receive the grades they deserve. In the meantime, I would ask that we work together to support and encourage our students over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs V L Beaney
Head of School



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