

23 March 2021



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Year 11 and Year 13 Parents/Carers,

Assessment plans and qualifications grading for Summer 2021

We advised in January 2021 that the government had announced students currently in Year 11 and Year 13 would not sit examinations this summer. Instead exam boards will request that centres generate grades based on the progress students have made over each of their courses. The guidance for this can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021>

As such, teachers will be asked to provide a wide range of assessment evidence in order to produce accurate Centre Assessed Grade (CAGs). Ofqual has stated that these grades should provide a carefully considered judgement that is both fair and reasonable, while still reflecting the integrity of each of the qualifications.

Importantly, this should only be evaluated on the curriculum content that they have been taught (or will be taught) in either the classroom or through remote learning. Ofqual expect that any assessment evidence is reflective of the specification content and indicative of the tasks and questions students would normally engage in when preparing for their qualification.

We expect further specific details, support materials and online training from the examination boards in the days and weeks to come. However, we would like to take this opportunity to explain what is expected of Year 11 and Year 13 students over the course of the next few months to reassure them that this assessment process has been well-considered.

What evidence can be used?

At this stage, and based upon the Ofqual guidance we are expecting that the following types of assessment can be used to provide a range of evidence. Although this list is not exhaustive:

- Student responses to assessment materials provided by the exam boards (these have been described as mini-assessments in the media).
- Any Non Examination Assessment (NEAs) which are better known as coursework. *Students will not be disadvantaged if these are incomplete.*
- Results of previously completed internal assessments such as mock examinations.
- Substantial pieces of classwork or homework that have been completed in the classroom or remotely.
- Records that evidence a practical ability such as PE
- Portfolio work in DT or Art

A singular piece of work will not be a determining factor in the final CAG. Therefore, if a student has performed particularly well in one piece of work, or particularly badly in one piece of work, this alone will not secure a judgement. Instead, these works will be used alongside one another to ascertain that final grade.

Explorer • Scholar • Leader • Collaborator



Ofqual has said within their guidance that more recent evidence is likely to be more representative of student progress and have suggested that there will be a higher *weighting* in relation to the exam board assessment materials (mini-assessments). Therefore, as part of our summer assessment plans, we will look to include this as evidence for all Year 11 and Year 13 students across all of their courses.

Our assessment process

To reassure all parties, these assessment processes have been aligned with all schools across the Trust to remain ethical and fair. The timescales take into account the deadlines from the examination board and the time taken for the strict quality assurance processes identified by Ofqual.

Assessments will take place from April onwards; they will be designed to assess topics that have been taught in the classroom or remotely. All assessments will follow the standard code of practice as outlined through the Joint Council of Qualifications (JCQ) and will follow Covid-19 safety guidelines.

Each assessment will have been carefully considered by subject teachers to make sure that students have covered that element of the curriculum and are not disadvantaged. Students will be told what topics they need to prepare for and will be supported in the revision for these assessments. Teachers will not be able to identify which questions will be assessed and students should not ask. Either of the above would be identified as malpractice under JCQ expectations.

Marking, feedback and awarding grades

Grades cannot be returned to students through these assessments as they will have to be standardised, moderated and ranked within a very small time frame. The entire range of assessed evidence for each student across each subject will be quality assured internally through a series of meetings at all levels in our centre. After this, grades will be moderated by the Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Faculty with teachers being able to provide further evidence to support their professional judgements. Additionally, we will be able to work closely with our colleagues across the Trust to enable our judgements to be accurate.

All grades have to be **submitted before 18 June** to the examination boards for final external quality assurance checks. This process continues right up until 23 July and centres may be requested to provide further external quality assurance support.

Year 13 grades will be published on Tuesday 10 August, and Year 11 grades published on Thursday 12 August. As in previous years, staff and the Senior Leadership Team will be on hand to support transition to further education, higher education, employment and training.

Next steps for Year 11 and Year 13

Each element of work remains a real opportunity for every student to provide evidence of their overall performance. Students should not squander these opportunities! A single piece of work will never decide the final grade the student receives. It is in their interests to keep working as hard as they can.

While this year has been a difficult one for all parties concerned, this assessment process is an incredible opportunity for students to evidence just how far they have come and how much they have progressed in the most challenging of circumstances.

We would like to remind students that any concerns should be shared with their teachers or pastoral staff. Likewise, any concerns regarding assessment should be directed to Mr Wobbaka for Year 11 and Mr Pinder for Year 13.

Finally, our very best wishes go to all Year 11 and Year 13 students over these next few months. In this last year, you have shown incredible resilience and evidenced how adaptable and mature you can be. We believe that this will stand you in good stead for any challenge that lies ahead. Your hard work, commitment, skills and knowledge will allow you to achieve you very best. We wish you the very best of luck.

Yours faithfully,



Mr D Wobbaka
Assistant Headteacher – Standards



Mr N Pinder
Assistant Headteacher – Director of KS5