

20 April 2021



Holderness Academy
& Sixth Form College

Dear Year 13 Parents and Students,

Year 13 Summer Assessments Update

This year teachers are being asked to report the grade that your son/daughter is working at based on evidence completed by students. This letter includes information to help in planning and preparing for this Summer's upcoming assessments.

Ofqual and exam boards have now released more guidance to support the process of awarding grades. This includes the public availability of exam style questions or assessments.

Each subject has used the guidance provided by Ofqual and the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) to design broad assessment activities that will be completed during the summer term and has carefully selected topics which allow students abilities to demonstrate their abilities in a consistent, fair and robust manner. The form that this will take can and will vary between subjects.

Evidence is to be collected by your teachers, marked in school and moderated in school. We have strict processes in place to ensure all marking is fair and grading judgements are only based on the evidence at hand. The exam boards will then check our processes and may visit to look at the evidence we have collected. The government has made clear, no student will be disadvantaged by this year's system and at Holderness Academy & Sixth Form College we will carefully ensure that every student has the best opportunity to be successful.

Further information regarding the process that will be used can be found with the following link:

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf>

We have put together a timeline of important dates where evidence will be collected. This has been designed so that students have multiple opportunities to show off what they can do and maximise their final grade.

Between now and Thursday 27 May, the majority of your time in lesson will be spent in preparation for final assessments. These last assessments follow JCQ guidance and reflect the fact that student performance generally improves over time. While the evidence of your prior assessment during your course of study will continue to contribute to the final grade, opportunities to highlight improved performance are just as necessary.



Due to the significant differences between how individual subjects are assessed, there are likely to be a wide range of assessments including, for example; end of topic assessments, past paper styled questions, coursework components and essay titles. Your teacher will always notify you in advance of which of these assessments will be used.

In the last few weeks of May, assessments will take place in classrooms under controlled circumstances. This is to clarify that these last pieces of work are clearly the work of the individual student. Staff will carefully select these final assessments to make sure that they reflect the learning that has taken place and in no way assess students on work that they have not been able to cover.

The final day for all Year 13 students will be Thursday 27 May.

After the above leaving date, staff will work to provide all evidence on behalf of the respective exam boards and upload this in preparation for the 18 June Centre Assessed Grade Submission.

The exam boards have clearly identified what criteria a student needs to meet in order to achieve a specific grade. While there may be less content assessment, the actual grade remains indicative of how well the student responds in relation to that criteria.

We are confident that staff and students have already collected a great deal of assessment data that can be used over the last two years. Nonetheless, JCQ advice is clear and we do strongly recommend that students listen carefully to their subject teachers in regards to the last set of assessments in order to maximise their chance of success. There are currently strong procedures in place and the Academy is well placed to be able to support all of our students at this time.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,



Mr N Pinder
Assistant Headteacher – Director of KS5