

Year 11: Assessment and Grading

Briefing for Parents

March 17 2021



Thank You

For your support during the period(s) of
Remote Provision

For your support with on-site testing (and good luck as it
now switches to at-home testing!)

For giving us the time to review the information carefully from the Government and
work with colleagues and the Trust to develop a robust and fair plan for our Year 11s

What we know so far

How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021



Ofqual/21/6751/2

Working out your grade

-  Graded by teacher judgement
-  Not graded by an algorithm
-  School and college assessments can continue
-  You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught
-  Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you
-  Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded

Evidence

-  Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence
-  Non-exam assessment should continue
-  Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete
-  Art & design grade based only on your portfolio
-  Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to
-  Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best

Results and appeals

- **Results days**
AS and A level 10 August
GCSE 12 August
-  If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.
- You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website

 www.gov.uk/ofqual

Key Dates:

- June 18th** - deadline for CAGs
- August 12th** – GCSE results day

MECE Assessment Opportunities

To confirm from update last week:

- **NEA** (practical elements) to be completed by 1st April. Blocks of time made available 29 March – 1 April (this includes the English Language Speaking and Listening component).
- **Core PPEs** (postponed from 8 March) to take place 21-23 April (+AM session, 29 April)
- **Summer Assessments** to take place 13-21st May – using exam board material where possible and if appropriate in liaison with colleagues across the Trust.
- Subject teachers are also able to use **in class assessments** (e.g. one particular question) to allow students the opportunity to show what they can achieve

NEAs **do need** to be marked against exam board criteria

NEAs **will not** be externally moderated by exam boards

A process of **internal** moderation will still take place

Marks **can be shared** with students after moderation has taken place.

The work behind the scenes

We have been guided by the following moral imperative to:

- Teach the substantive part of the course
- Ensure students are able to proceed, should they choose, in the subject area at Post 16 study
- Ensure there is a wide range of evidence available to be used in coming to a grade (and ample opportunity for students to show their current working level)
- Be able to sign off (as a Centre) that the Assessment process is fair and reflective of the course

Subject Leaders have **audited their courses** (against the updated 2021 specifications) to identify any remaining critical content that needs to be delivered. Agreements with SLT in place where aspects of the course will not be covered (or assessed).

Subject Leaders have **audited the evidence base** they already have to work from and identified where there are gaps.

Where we teach the same course / specification as MES or MER initial discussions have taken place to identify **possible content for the Summer Assessment** in that subject – this is subject to the release of the exam board material (due in March)

Identified and planned time for successful completion of NEAs (including Eng Lang Speaking & Listening and MFL speaking components)

At the end of the day we have to do what is best for OUR students and so whilst there have been extensive conversations with Trust Colleagues (at School Leadership and Department Leadership level) and the overall process we will be following mirrors that of the Trust secondary schools we will be guided by the evidence and assessments that we need to come to grade decision.

How will we arrive at a final grade?

Evidence for final grade

We are working closely with individual departments in liaison with colleagues across the Trust to ensure our process to generate the final grade is fair and allows for as wide a range of evidence to be captured and consider.

The types of evidence we will be using will include:

- Level of work consistently demonstrated (in books, performances or portfolios) across the 2 years of study
- End of unit / topic assessments sat in class (particularly pertinent where exam board questions / mark schemes were adopted)
- PPE series from November 2020
- Upcoming NEA results (March 2021)
- Upcoming Core PPEs (April 2021)
- Upcoming Summer Assessment results (May 2021)

Evidence that is deemed more robust (that conducted under exam conditions) will have a greater influence to the overall grade submitted

OfQUAL have advised that evidence from as late in the course (Summer Assessments) should also have a greater influence on the final submitted grade.

How will we arrive at a final grade?

Once students have completed their Core PPEs and then final Summer Assessments these will be marked and moderated both within subject teams at MECE and utilising the wider Trust resources.

Subject teachers will then use the entire evidence base to come to their best judgement of the grade for each student.

Internal deadline 9th June

An in-department process of moderation will take place to ensure no student is disadvantaged based on teaching group.

Internal deadline 11th June

Subject Leaders will then present their data and evidence to Senior Leaders who will go through and QA process.

Internal deadline 15th June

Data will be submitted to the Board and Mr Hartley will sign off the process to signify a fair and robust process has taken place

EXTERNAL deadline 18th June

Exam Boards will then conduct a process of checking grades and sample moderating school processes and evidence bases.

Results are released to students 12 August. There is will be an appeals process in place for students as well as a Nov GCSE series

NEAs: 29 March – 1 April

An outline of the proposed schedule can be found below:

Subject	Notes	Mon 29 March	Tues 30 March	Wed 31 March	Thurs 1 April
Art	Students will be off timetable all day to work on their NEA submission			✓	
D&T	Students will be off timetable all day to work on their NEA submission		✓		
Food Tech	Students will be allocated to one of the days and be off timetable p1-4 on that day. Mrs Ashley will confirm which day students are doing)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Dance	Monday (rehearsals) – students will be off timetable all day On Thursday, students will be given a specific time for their performance	✓			✓
Drama	Students will be off timetable p1-4 to work on their NEA submission	✓			
French (orals)	Students will have a set up session p1 and then be given a specific time for their oral			✓	
Home Language (orals)	Students will have a prep session p5 and their oral will take place between 3-4pm	✓			

All students will get a personal timetable for this last week of term so there can be no confusion!

If (when) students are not involved in NEAs you will be in regular timetabled lessons

Food & Nutrition students – Mrs Ashley will let you know which day you are cooking on!

English Language Speaking and Listening component

In order to fully satisfy the requirements of the English Language GCSE you are required to complete a Speaking assessment. This will not contribute to your final grade, but is a necessary element to have completed for the qualification to be verified.

- You will be required to prepare a short speech on a topic of your choice and *perform* it to a small audience.
- Unlike previous years it does not have to be recorded
- You will be graded (Pass / Merit / Distinction) and it will print on your GCSE certificate

During the NEA week you will each have an English Speaking assessment set up lesson (where all the criteria will be shared) and there will be time set aside in English lessons that week to prepare you for the assessment.

We intend to complete the speaking assessments (where possible) on Wednesday and Thursday of that week. A small group of students will have to complete them after Easter – they will be advised in advance!

Nearer the time students will receive details of when your 'set up' lesson is scheduled and when your 'performance' slot is.

Core PPEs: 21-23 April (+29 April AM session)

Session / Time		Wednesday 21	Thursday 22	Friday 23	Thursday 29
Session 1 8.45-11.05 <i>Expected exam start time 9am</i>		Maths (1h 30)	Eng Literature (1h45)	Physics Triple (1h45) Physics Comb Sci (1h10)	Maths (1h 30)
Students have Break 1, Period 3 (as timetable) and Break 2					Lessons resume from p3
Session 2 1.05-3.10 <i>Expected exam start time 1.15 pm</i>		Eng Language (1h45)	Biology Triple (1h45) Biology Comb Sci (1h10)	Chemistry Triple (1h45) Chemistry Comb Sci (1h10)	

Exams will take place in the Main Hall

Exams will take place under full exam conditions

The English, Maths and Science teams will inform students of the topics you need to focus your revision on. They will provide materials to support revision too.

Students with agreed Access Arrangements - these will take place in the Training Suite

Mrs Reilly will send a reminder of the JCQ regulations as well as the COVID procedures in place before we break for Easter.

Summer Assessments- Plan

Date	KS4 subject to be assessed
Thurs 13 May	Maths, Geography,
Fri 14 May	English, Science
Mon 17 May	French, Science
Tues 18 May	History, Art
Wed 19 May	French, Health & Social Care, PE
Thurs 20 May	Maths, Design Technology, PE, Sport.
Fri 21 May	English, Science

DRAFT

Assessments used will be using Exam Board material, selected by HODs and agreed by SLT. Where possible material will be synchronised across the Trust to promote moderation opportunities.

Assessments will be no more than 1h in length

Full access arrangements will be in place

During this period students will only be expected to be on site when they have an exam. A study room (and where we can facilitate, teacher led revision support sessions) will be available to students who can not get home from site during the school day. The finalised timetable and expectations of students during this time will be available shortly.

Preparing for upcoming assessments

There are many ways that the school and individual subject teachers will be supporting students to prepare for the upcoming NEAs, Core PPEs and Summer Assessments – further details to follow but will include:

Priority intervention slots (Break 1 and afterschool) for subjects with an NEA for the next 2 weeks

Online support materials (e.g. Google Classroom, Hegarty Maths) being uploaded between now and Core PPEs.

Dedicated study space after school on a Wednesday and Thursday for Y11 to use to work

Tutor time targeted intervention in English, Maths and Science

In school workshop to revisit the most effective revision strategies

3 week after school revision burst, similar to pre-November PPEs. (timetable to be confirmed and shared soon). These sessions are voluntary but student attendance will be encouraged.

Week	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri
26 April	Op A	Op B		Biology	Eng Lit
3 May	Bank Holiday		Physics	Eng Lang	Chemistry
10 May	Op A		Op C		

DRAFT

Some things to remember

- Students will only be assessed in each subject on topics they have studied (therefore not all students around the country will sit the same assessments).
- If students have subjects with NEAs (often practical exams) these are as important as a written paper. Subject teachers will provide details of how to ensure the final NEA submission is of the highest possible standard
- There will be some formal assessments after Easter. Subject teachers will provide some broad guidance on what to revise and we will help students to prepare
- One assessment isn't more important than another – they will all contribute to the final grade teachers will generate for students.
- Work completed to date will be taken into account, along with work currently being completed doing now. Teachers will be using 'day to day' evidence from classwork to help shape their judgement alongside the 'formal' PPE, Summer Assessment or NEA assessment results.
- The grade is **confidential** and will not be shared with students or parents. **GCSE results day is 12 August 2021**

Questions from the floor

Question	Response
What will be the 'last day of term'?	Unfortunately, we are awaiting guidance from the DfE / OfQUAL before we can make a final call on this.
Will there be Saturday school	No, the scope and breadth of the assessments is much smaller than in a normal GCSE years and we believe we can support students through class and 'in-school' revision
Will there be revision sessions?	Yes, details shared earlier (slide 12). Subject teachers will provide topic lists to help students focus their revision.
My child has an external tutor – can they provide evidence towards a grade?	Teacher / Centre Assessed Grades can only consider evidence that is produced through the school (classwork, school-based assessments etc). We would hope that a student receiving private tutoring would be able to show the impact of that during the upcoming assessments.
How will BTECs work?	BTEC subjects (Sport / H&SC) are designed to have ongoing assessment. Much of this has already be completed and signed off by the Exam Boards (through last year's grading process). In H&SC students have not been able to sit the external exam so will be assessed in that section of the course in the Summer Assessment window. In Sport, students sat the external paper in Y10. Any student wanting to try and improve that grade should speak to Mr Hunter.
Will there be Work Experience	Unfortunately we aren't able to coordinate a full Y11 WExp programme – but we will, of course, support students through references and sharing opportunities we hear of with them. There are also lots of 'virtual' opportunities that are shared with students and we encourage them to explore.
What is the appeals process?	<p>On results day students do have an appeals process open to them, but it differs from the <i>normal</i> process. They will have to formally request to the school that they wish to lodge an appeal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first action that is checked is a clerical one. This is undertaken by the school and involves us checking there was no error in data entry. • The second action would be the exam board reviewing the evidence the school has used to decide upon a grade and check their internal process has been followed. <p>Please note that a student's grade can go up or down at either stage of the process.</p>