

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

26 February 2021

For the attention of: Students in Years 10, 11 and 13 and their Parents

Dear Students and Parents

Summer 2021 Grading

I am sure you are aware that 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 information published by Ofqual and at the end of this letter you will find links to the relevant publications for GCSEs, A Levels and VTQs. In addition, I have enclosed with this letter two helpful infographics that concisely set out the key points.

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 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- The examination boards will provide schools with additional assessments (past paper questions and unpublished questions) for all subjects which they may choose to use in class to assess students' knowledge and understanding of content they have been taught.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 and A Level 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) and A Level Sciences (Practical).
- Level 3 Core Mathematics and the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) will be graded using a similar process to GCSEs and A Levels.

Headteacher:
Mr D A Mackenzie
BA (Hons) NPQH

Freshfield Road
Formby
Liverpool
L37 3HW

01704 873100

enquiries@
formbyhighschool.com

www.
formbyhighschool.com

@FormbyHigh





Quality Assurance

- Schools and colleges will be required to implement internal quality assurance procedures, including considering how this year's grades compare with outcomes for cohorts from previous years who sat examinations.
- Examination boards will conduct their own quality assurance, checking a sample of schools and colleges to ensure their internal quality assurance systems are effective.
- 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'.
- The Head of Centre (Headteacher) will be required to sign a declaration confirming that the requirements for internal quality assurance have been met.

Appeals

- Whilst we hope this will not be necessary, students will be able to appeal against their grades.
- They may request that the school checks for an administrative or procedural error.
- If students believe a grade is wrong, they may request an appeal is submitted to the examination board by school on their behalf and the examination board will determine whether the grade issued represents a 'reasonable exercise of academic judgement'.
- A grade may go up or down at appeal.
- Ofqual will consult at a later stage on whether to offer an Autumn examination series.

Vocational & Technical Qualifications (VTQs)

- An approach similar to grading GCSEs and A levels will be adopted for VTQs such as BTECs.
- Teachers will make informed judgements on the grades students will receive using a variety of evidence, including performance in tasks or assessments that have already been completed.

Results Days

- A Levels – 10 August 2021
- GCSEs – 12 August 2021

I would like to reassure you that examinations have been cancelled, although it will be necessary for teachers to carry out some formal assessment of students' knowledge and understanding of the content they have been taught in order to make accurate and fair judgements on grades. Over the next few weeks, I will share more detail with you about the approach we will take at Formby High School to ensure all of our students receive the grades their efforts deserve. In the meantime, I would ask that you all try not to worry unduly and our students continue to work hard and try their best over the coming weeks.

We are looking forward to meeting with Year 11 students and parents at next week's Subject Consultation Evening but I would respectfully ask that you do not quiz teachers on likely grades and how judgements will be made. At this stage, teachers have very little information about the grading process and the time available at Subject Consultation Evening will be more productively spent discussing progress and focus areas for improvement.

I hope that this information is helpful and I will provide further updates in due course.

- [DfE / Ofqual Awarding qualifications in Summer 2021](#)
- [Consultation decisions GCSEs and A Levels](#)
- [Consultation decisions VTQs](#)

Yours sincerely
D A Mackenzie
Headteacher

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



Ofqual/21/6751/2

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
<p> Graded by teacher judgement</p> <p> Not graded by an algorithm</p> <p> School and college assessments can continue</p> <p> You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught</p> <p> Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you</p> <p> Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded</p>	<p> Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence</p> <p> Non-exam assessment should continue</p> <p> Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete</p> <p> Art & design grade based only on your portfolio</p> <p> Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to</p> <p> Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best</p>	<p>Results days AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August</p> <p> If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.</p>
<p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p> <p> www.gov.uk/ofqual</p>		

How vocational and technical qualifications will be awarded in 2021



Ofqual/21/6751/1

Qualifications most similar to GCSEs and A levels
e.g. BTECs and OCR Cambridge Technicals

 Taken only in schools or colleges

 Do not assess occupational skills

Qualifications not similar to GCSEs or A levels
e.g. Functional skills and ESOL Skills for Life

 Taken in schools, colleges or other places

 Do not assess occupational skills

Qualifications with occupational skills or proficiency assessments
e.g. construction, plumbing and electrical qualifications

 Taken in schools, colleges or other places

 Assess occupational skills

Your results

 Graded by teacher or lecturer judgement

 Various sources of evidence used

 Results no later than for GCSEs and A levels

Your results

 Assessments should continue where possible

 May be awarded using other evidence or judgements

 Awarding organisations decide the evidence needed

Your results

 Assessments can continue as normal where possible

 Assessments may be delayed

 Assessments can be adapted if needed