

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

21 May 2021

To Students of Year 11 and Year 13 and their Parents

Headteacher:
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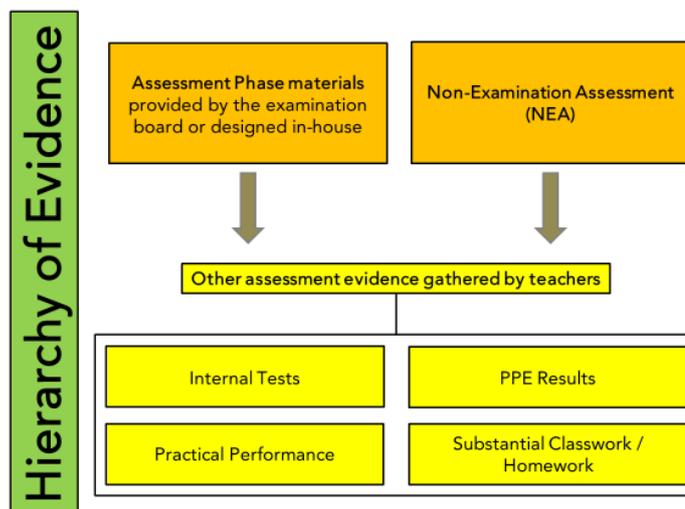
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Dear Students and Parents

As we near the end of the Assessment Phase, I wanted to write to you to explain how grades for GCSEs and A Levels will be determined.

From the outset, we established a set of principles that would underpin the assessment and grading process, including fairness and consistency to ensure students receive grades that reflect the standard at which they are currently working. In terms of determining grades, we will use a **hierarchy of evidence**, placing most weight on the assessments completed this half term and Non-Examination Assessment (coursework). To maintain consistency, the same assessment evidence will be used for all students taking a subject. Where, however, there is difficulty in distinguishing between two grades or if there are 'gaps' in a student's evidence portfolio, further information may be brought in to determine a grade. As part of this process, teachers will pay attention to ensuring fairness for students with special educational needs and those whose assessments have been disrupted.

The infographic below sets out the hierarchy of evidence that will be used by teachers to determine grades.



During the first two weeks of next half term, teachers will work with Subject Leaders to finalise grades. To ensure that grades are fair and accurate, each subject area will carry out quality assurance, led by the relevant Subject Leader, and the grades for each department will also be quality assured by members of the Senior Leadership Team. In addition to our internal quality assurance procedures, the examination boards will conduct external quality assurance by reviewing a sample of assessed grades (and the evidence underpinning them) at GCSE and A Level. The final date for the submission of assessed grades to the examination boards is Friday 18 June 2021.





Further information about the assessment and grading process can be found in our [Assessment and Grading Policy](#) that has been approved by the school's Governing Body and submitted to the Joint Council for Qualifications (the organisation representing examination boards). In addition, you will find in the [Assessment and Grading area](#) of the school website [Ofqual's 'student guide to awarding summer 2021'](#). Although quite a lengthy read, I would encourage you to spend time reviewing the content of this publication.

For students who are due to receive grades in Vocational & Technical Qualifications (VTQ) this summer, teachers are following a similar grading process to that outlined above. In most subjects, students have completed assessments this half term and teachers will use results from these assessments, alongside performance in units of the course that have been completed to date (some of which have been externally verified by the examination boards) to determine the overall qualification grade. Students in Year 13 completing Level 3 BTEC qualifications should [read this letter from Pearson](#) (the examination board for BTEC courses) regarding progression to higher education.

I trust the above information is helpful. If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Hiller (Examinations & Data Manager) in the first instance.

Finally, well done to everyone who has completed assessments this half term. I have been really impressed with the studious approach that has been taken and the way in which you have all engaged with the process.

Yours sincerely

Mr D A Mackenzie
Headteacher