



SIR THOMAS FREMANTLE SCHOOL

A CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS AGED 11-19

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22nd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

Re: Plans for Centre Assessed Grades – GCSE & A Level – Summer 2021

We hope you have all enjoyed and benefited from the return to school as much as we have. It has been a joy to have the school full again, and to see the students working so hard.

We are aware that there is a degree of uncertainty around the arrangements for centre assessment of GCSE and A Level qualifications and wanted to give an outline of our initial planning at this stage. We must emphasise that these plans are being offered in advance of promised government guidance, and as such may be subject to change.

What is key to share with you, is that we intend to make our assessment as student centred and as fair as possible. There are many advantages to centre assessment – not least that teachers can reward the hard work and progress captured across the full breadth of a course, not just that expressed in the course of a few hours in an exam hall.

This letter gives some broad and tentative guidance about intended plans, and will be followed in due course by a clear policy and process that will be followed by the school, as well as the process for appeals, should they become necessary. These processes will be based on the guidance to be published by the exam boards in the week prior to Easter.

We intend to offer a period of end of course examinations for both A Level and GCSE students. The suggested dates for these exam periods are overleaf, and may be subject to change. Rest assured that our judgments will not be drawn from these examinations alone. Our full process involves the use of a range of evidence, across a range of units and skills, in line with JCQ guidelines.

Our priority in the final term is to ensure:

- (i) A fair and accurate assessment of student potential and capacity across the full breadth of their study.
- (ii) That parents and students feel confident in our transparent processes in awarding grades.
- (iii) We give students a *traditional finish* to this phase of their education and as such propose a window of summative assessment to act as final form of evidence to support the judgment made by the teacher.



In order to achieve this:

- (i) Our grading judgements will be based on at least three in class pieces of assessed work across the course and two sets of examinations – the ‘winter’ series and the ‘summer’ series (as outlined below) as well as NEA grades where appropriate.
- (ii) The assessed work from winter and summer will be used to corroborate existing work produced across the year, and will not be used in isolation.
- (iii) We will ensure that students granted access arrangements had these in place when a particular assessment was completed, if required for that assessment.
- (iv) We will ensure work will be moderated, and teachers will access exam board and subject specific moderation resources to support review of their marking to ensure consistency across and between subjects.
- (v) We ask that students speak with their teachers and share copies of marked work that they are proud of in order to showcase the abilities of each individual (N.B – *this is for existing work, not newly created work which will be retained as below*).
- (vi) We believe, based on JCQ guidance, that you will not be negatively affected if you cannot source your work as long as marks exist for it.

The suggested dates for the summer assessment period are:

	Key Dates & Processes	
	Year 13	Year 11
Date of results day	10 th August	12 th August
Final Assessment Period	4 th -14 th May	10 th -28 th May

We hope we are in a position to further clarify these draft plans once the JCQ and the DfE share their plans and procedures. We also hope this offers some clarity for students and parents and will of course be happy to discuss any areas of concern. Please, as ever, contact your child’s tutor in the first instance.

Yours faithfully,

Matthew Pike
Head of Sixth Form

Mat Payne
Director of Learning Leads/Head of Year 11

