



Thursday 25th March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer and Year 11 students

Re: Awarding of Qualifications this Summer – Centre Determined Grades

As you will know from previous correspondence, the Welsh Government and Qualifications Wales have confirmed that qualifications completed this summer will be awarded using Centre Determined Grades (CDGs). This means that individual examination centres, such as schools and colleges, would determine the actual grades awarded for each qualification.

As per the [letter from Qualifications Wales on 4th March](#), I am now writing to you, before the Easter break, to provide more detail on the process of awarding CDGs for each subject at our school. This information builds upon the Zoom Assembly delivered to students, parents and carers in February, and messages that I have relayed to students in class over the last two weeks.

By sharing the process of how CDGs will be awarded, we hope to reassure parents/carers and students that the process is transparent and robust. It also informs students as to what they need to study on their return after Easter.

Overview of the Process

What are Centre Determined Grades?

A Centre Determined Grade is the grade awarded by the school, as an examination centre, on the basis of attainment which has been demonstrated in the areas of the qualification content that a student has covered. It will not be possible or permitted for teachers, or the school, to attempt to issue a Centre Determined Grade based on professional prediction or the potential of a student.

Each grade awarded by the school must be underpinned by robust evidence that demonstrates a student's attainment across key themes and skills. These will vary per qualification, as determined by the requirements of each WJEC Qualification Assessment Framework.

Teachers will be required to apply their professional judgement and decide whether the knowledge and skills demonstrated meets the usual standard for a specified grade. In



determining grades, the school will be required to make 'best-fit' judgements, using a holistic judgement, based on the evidence that students have produced during their assessments.

Where there is insufficient evidence, or where evidence suggest attainment is below that required of the lowest grade for a qualification (G grade at GCSE) then a student will be awarded a Centre Determined Grade of U.

What evidence will be used to award Centre-Determined Grades?

Centre Determined Grades will be generated using evidence of work completed by a student, using the adapted specification content. In determining a grade, the following types of evidence will be used in each qualification:

- Anchor Assessments: capture very recent learning and cover the range of Assessment Objectives
- Subsidiary Assessments: capture learning from the start of the examination year

1a. Anchor Assessments: WJEC Adapted Past Papers

The school will make use of WJEC adapted past papers when setting tasks to help determine a grade for each qualification. There are recognised benefits of using these materials. The adapted past papers have already been externally quality assured, are fully supported by mark schemes and are familiar to both learners and staff. Teachers will ensure that these past papers, which will form a key part of the evidence, will be incorporated within their delivery of teaching and learning.

1b. Anchor Assessments: Non-Examination Assessment

Non-examination assessment (NEA) still exists in many qualifications. Where NEA remains as part of an adapted qualification, teachers will use the performance of learners in this element to help contribute towards the determination of a grade. When considering the contribution that NEA makes in determining a Centre Determined Grade, teachers will consider the weighting of the NEA in the adapted specification.

2. Subsidiary Assessments: QMAs that have been summatively assessed

- previously completed WJEC past paper and questions (which have been externally quality assured and published with an approved mark scheme and completed under appropriately controlled conditions)
- trial examinations
- other centre devised assessments which meet the requirements outlined in WJEC's Centre Assessment Creation Guide.



The number of pieces of evidence required to determine a grade will vary per qualification. Teachers will ensure that there is sufficient opportunity for learners to provide clear evidence to demonstrate competency against the key areas to support progression and assessment objectives, outlined in the WJEC Qualification Assessment Frameworks.

Our Centre Determined Grades Subject Guidance (enclosed) outlines the specific requirements for each subject.

When will these assessments be completed?

The evidence generated will not be completed in the form of an examination. However, students will produce work within a specified timeframe, to reflect the volume of work. It is anticipated that the time to produce evidence would not exceed the length of the unseen examination in the qualification. Unlike an unseen examination, evidence would be produced over a series of lessons as part of ongoing Teaching and Learning.

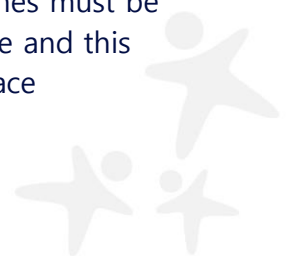
Nearly all learners will complete their assessments in class under the supervision of their teacher, unless there are exceptional circumstances. All subject teachers will ensure that any access arrangements and/or special consideration are taken into account for each student who would have received additional support during the exams. If you have specific question(s) regarding access arrangements please contact our ALNCo, Mr Jones.

How will we ensure the process is fair and consistent?

There will be a rigorous quality assurance of the marking and awarding of grades across all subjects, to ensure that all students are treated consistently, equally and fairly. This process is outlined in the Centre Assessment Policy which we have submitted to WJEC. Once this has been approved after Easter, we will share this with you.

What do we expect from our students?

Students must be reminded that all work completed during assessment activities must be their own and if this is not the case, this would be considered malpractice. It is also important to remind students that assessments are taking place under a high level of control, where they must not communicate with other students. Mobile phones must be placed in bags. Our students have worked excellently whilst learning at home and this outstanding attitude to learning has continued during the return to face to face





teaching. One of the key things we ask is that students try their best and work with their teachers to ensure that they achieve the grades they are capable of.

Next Steps

We are committed to supporting the well-being and achievement of all students during what is a different time for us all. We will continue to work closely with students, parents and carers to keep you updated over the coming weeks and months. We now have dedicated section of our website with further information: 'Qualifications 2021'.

Before Easter, senior staff will have spoken to students individually about their GCSE grades. To facilitate conversations at home, I have attached a second copy of the Interim All Achieve Report that was emailed to all parents on Tuesday 9th March. We have also provided students with a copy of their 'exam entries'. Whilst students are obviously not sitting exams, this document does outline the subjects in which they will be awarded CDG. Please check these carefully and contact us urgently if you have any queries.

Finally, I would like to take the time to thank students and parents/carers for continuing to work in partnership with us in order to secure the very best outcomes for each of our students. As always, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further questions.

Yours faithfully

Mrs L Eyre
Deputy Headteacher

