



27 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Further to our correspondence in March about the summer exams for Y11 and Y12, the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) has now released their full guidance. Therefore, we are now in a position to update you fully on procedures we will take to determine your child's GCSE grades.


The link for the JCQ guidance can be accessed [here](#).

The guidance clearly states schools are required to enter a grade to the awarding body for each subject a pupil is studying. We will ensure that your child is given every opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills across all their subjects, while operating within the framework outlined in this guidance.

What happens next?

Your child will be given clear guidance from his/her teachers on the range of evidence we will use to determine their grade in each subject. An important part of the process in determining this grade is through the use of in-school assessments. I outlined in my previous letter that a range of assessments will determine your child's grade and the grade will not be weighted to one particular assessment. This is still the case. It is also important you know that your child will only be assessed on the content they have been taught. Any topics that we do not feel have been covered in depth and do not give pupils the best opportunity to succeed, will not be used. In the next week, each teacher will outline the subject content that will be assessed so every pupil is fully informed of what they need to work towards. These assessments are calendared throughout this half term. We will not be completing full mock exams in the examination hall. Instead, the assessments will be taken in a classroom during the normal timetabled lessons.

These assessments will be marked (by the class teacher) and the pupils will receive a mark for them. Grades will not be issued for these assessments as they form only part of a wider process used to determine the overall grade of the pupil. As you will see from the JCQ guidance, schools are also not allowed to share the final teacher assessed grade with pupils. Pupils should not attempt to second-guess the grade submitted, as teachers will be using a



range of evidence to inform their final judgement. Pupils and parents must not pressure on teachers to reveal the grades they are submitting, or to increase the grades, as doing so may be considered exam malpractice.

We will work alongside you and your children in helping them prepare for the upcoming assessments this half term. As we will be using time in the lessons to ensure every pupil has the best possible chance of succeeding – attendance and punctuality are therefore essential in the coming weeks.

Examination results

GCSE pupils will receive their results on Thursday 12 August 2021.

Results will be available at 9 am from the school hall. The senior leadership team will be available when results are issued to support pupils with any next steps. More information will be sent out specifically about the logistics of results day and the potential impact that Covid may or may not have.

We are grateful in advance for your support through this process and should you have any further queries or concerns please address them through the school email enquires@sacredheart.npcat.org.uk

Many thanks in advance for your ongoing support.

Regards,



Dr Caldwell, Headteacher, Sacred Heart