

Dear Y11 and y13 students, parents and carers,

I do hope you have had a restful Easter break and are looking forward to the easing of lockdown restrictions. I am writing to update you with more information concerning how Simon Balle will gather evidence over the coming weeks in order to submit its grades to the examination boards. The DfE and Ofqual are quite clear that students can get their grades and move onto their next stage of education, employment or training and that these grades are widely understood and respected. It will certainly be no easier or harder for a student to achieve a particular grade this year compared to previous years. Indeed, historical centre performance will help support the internal quality assurance process for assigning grades.

### Timeline

Date	Action
Jan - March	School has carried out an audit of evidence
Week beginning 8 <sup>th</sup> March	Students return to face-to-face teaching. Teachers have been told to prioritise the teaching of the most important aspects of the course.
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Additional Assessment Materials (set of questions, mark schemes and mapping)
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> March - Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter holiday
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	First day back at school for the summer term
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Submission of data to data group for moderation and quality assurance
7 <sup>th</sup> June - 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Return to school – a small number of students may be required to sit additional assessments if we need extra evidence to make a judgement about a student's grade in a particular subject. You will be given ample notice of when this will take place and what topics will be covered.
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Teacher Assessed grade submission
8 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> August	A-Level results released on 10 <sup>th</sup> August and GCSE results are due for release on 12 <sup>th</sup> August.
10 <sup>th</sup> August - 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Priority appeals window
10 <sup>th</sup> August - end of October	Majority of non-priority appeals take place

We are looking for students to be in full time attendance at school until the 28th May but all students need to be available to come into school until 18th June, if moderation requires. For Year 11 to 12 coming to our sixth form we aim to put together a transition package, including attendance in person, independent study and remote provision. More information regarding this will be presented during your child's individual Sixth Form Pathway Meeting from April 19th.

### The Assessment Calendar

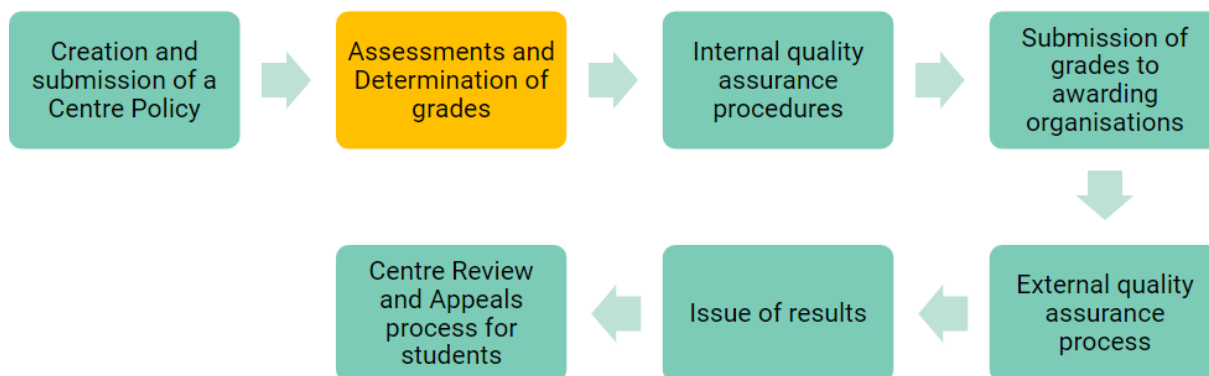
We have attached the assessment calendar for each subject and for both GCSE and A-Level. Please use this link -

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Sc7DX\\_EmkNqLmT9rRSuftFiWYfL-dZQaAglOea](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Sc7DX_EmkNqLmT9rRSuftFiWYfL-dZQaAglOea)

[m6nx8/edit#gid=0](#) This document includes assessments already carried out and upcoming assessments to be completed in the classroom. Please regularly check this 'live' document as it may change subject to board guidance etc. Students will also be told in class what to expect in each assessment and the pieces of evidence which will be used to calculate their results.

We are in the fortunate position at Simon Balle that the internal assessments and the mocks taken already were very successful and provide some strong pieces of evidence for our students. It is however important that the grades represent a holistic, objective judgement based on evidence of each student's performance in each subject. Therefore, the assessment calendar is bespoke to each department to ensure they give the maximum opportunity for our students to perform. While there is no one type of evidence that takes precedence, evidence gathered in conditions that enable confidence about the authenticity of the students' work will give more confidence in the overall holistic judgement. Assessments carried out in the classroom may vary in length, although you can be assured that time will always be allocated for access arrangements.

### The Process



### Quality Assurance

Our internal and external quality assurance measures for Summer 2021 aim to ensure that on results day students are issued with fair and consistent grades that have been objectively reached. The sharing of information with students about the evidence being used as part of a centre's grade determination process is important and should help to avoid issues that may otherwise arise when results are issued.

This JCQ document provides an overview of the most important information that students and parents / guardians need to know about how grades will be awarded this summer. This includes a timeline of what is happening and when; how teachers, schools and colleges will determine your grades; and when you will receive your results.

<https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf>

We will also be updating the exams page on the school website with all the information and relevant documents pertaining to the awarding of grades for Summer 2021 for you to obtain the latest information.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

With best wishes.

Mike Moss

Deputy Head