

Centre Determined Grades

A Guide for Pupils



'Be still and know that I am with you'
Psalm 46:10

The purpose of this guide is to explain to you our school approach to Centre Determined Grades for those pupils following GCSE, AS and A level qualifications.

For those pupils following vocational qualifications, your work continues and your teacher will continue to guide you through your studies in the usual way.

This year is different

WJEC and Qualification Wales have issued schools with guidance about the processes that we need to put in place in our school as an examination 'centre', to allow us to determine a provisional grade for you.

In considering how to move forward with this, we hold at the centre of our thinking that each and every one of you is created *imago Dei*, in God's perfect image and likeness and have your own unique God given talents and abilities.

Your wellbeing and talents are at the heart of our process.

You have had reduced face to face teaching across your studies at various points in the school year.

You have had periods of isolation from school due to positive cases in your respective Year Groups.

This has presented unique challenges which so many of you have faced with extraordinary courage and resilience.

Therefore, we have decided that it is not appropriate to design a series of calendared final internal examinations for you which can add pressure in an already challenging situation.

Nevertheless, some additional information is required from you to meet the demands of reaching a robust best fit Centre Determined Grade in addition to the evidence which we may already have.

We will therefore put in place a series of 'mini assessments' for you across your subjects throughout next half term.

Our approach

Our approach is centred on you.

You will provide evidence of your knowledge, understanding and skills in lessons through teacher mini assessments. This will help us to fulfil the requirements of shaping a fair, objective and reliable provisional grade for you.

Following information which was sent to us within the last fortnight, each subject is writing a Subject Assessment Plan which sets out how they will use pieces of evidence to arrive at your grade. This will be shared with you.

This evidence will help your teachers to determine your provisional grade. This will be called your 'Centre Determined Grade'.

What is a mini assessment?

- A short assessment in lessons of the knowledge, understanding and skills that you have already covered.
- Topics will be recapped and consolidated by teachers in lessons before you have a mini assessment.

Your Centre Determined Grades

Will be based on the evidence that you provide within lessons from short, approximately 30 – 45 minute mini assessments which will be planned into a sequence of lessons.

A *typical* mini assessment cycle would run like this:

- *Lesson 1 – Retrieve past knowledge, understanding and skills with your teacher*
- *Lesson 2 – Refine and consolidate your knowledge, understanding or skills with your teacher*
- *Lesson 3 – Brief recap and mini assessment*

Sometimes this cycle will be *longer or shorter* if your teachers thinks it is necessary, based on their professional judgement and expertise.

This mini assessment cycle will repeat in your subjects so that teachers can build up a body of evidence for you to shape a Centre Determined Grade.

Can other evidence be used to shape my Centre Determined Grade?

Yes.

Nearly all subjects will use mini assessments in lessons as a source of evidence.

A number of subjects will also use Non-Examined Assessments at GCSE level or historical evidence of your knowledge and understanding where it is possible to do so.

Each subject will make clear to you the evidence that they will be using in the Subject Assessment Plan.

How will I be assessed during the next half term?

Your mini assessments will be marked by the subject teacher against an agreed mark scheme.

The marking of mini assessments will be standardised by subject departments so that every teacher marks equally.

The marking will be checked or moderated by a named member of staff.

Your numerical scores will be recorded on a Learner Decision Record.

How will my Centre Determined Grade be worked out?

Your teachers will consider the marks from each of your mini assessments, any historical evidence that they are using and the grade descriptors provided by WJEC. Using all this and their professional judgement, they will arrive at a 'best fit' grade for you.

The grade will be the 'best fit' for the body of fair, reliable and accurate evidence that we have for you in a subject.

This grade will be reviewed carefully by the Head of Department and checked against other data which we hold for you.

All of the grades will be reviewed members of the Senior Leadership Team.

Throughout the process you can have discussions with your teachers about your broad attainment. However, you will find out the provisional grade on June 18th by letter.

Will I have a chance to re-do a mini assessment if I perform poorly?

No.

However, teachers will base their 'best fit' grade for you around **several** pieces of evidence.

A provisional 'best fit' grade will not be based on a **singular** piece of evidence.

When will I be assessed?

Teachers will plan their mini assessments into their sequence of lessons with you.

You will be assessed in the 8 weeks following the Easter holidays in a period of time known as the 'Assessment Window'.

The Assessment Window will open on Tuesday 13th April and close on Friday 11th June, although most will be completed by Friday 28th May.

The Assessment Window is defined as such because as a school we are working to deadlines for information which are set by WJEC.

What happens if I am absent?

This will depend on the circumstances of your absence.

If it is a short absence affecting a small number of subjects we try to reschedule.

If you are absent for all or a large number of your mini assessments across the 8-week window, this will reduce the evidence which we can realistically base your CDG on. In these instances, absences and the evidence will be carefully considered on a case by case basis. If a year group or a pupil is required to isolate then we will use our contingency plans.

The evidence

The evidence that we use to shape your CDG must be fair, valid and reliable.

Your teachers will think very carefully about the evidence that they use to shape your Centre Determined Grades.

Your teachers' selection of evidence will be scrutinised as part of a longer process.

Centre Determined Grades can only be formed on the evidence that you present your teachers with.

Additional Learning Needs

If you have additional learning needs and if you are entitled to access arrangements this will be put in place for you by your subject teachers.

Miss Smith, Additional Learning Needs Co-ordinator, will advise and liaise with your subject teachers to ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for you.

What if I don't think my Centre Determined Grade is fair or accurate?

Following the publication of your provisional results in school on Friday 18th June, pupils following GCSE, AS and A Levels WJEC qualifications have the opportunity to request an internal review of your provisional grade or grades. This will be before the school (centre) sends your provisional results to WJEC.

At the time of writing we are awaiting written guidance on this area for vocational qualifications.

For GCSE, AS and A Level WJEC students, a 'Stage 1' internal review will be conducted by Mrs Owen following your request and you will be informed of the result.

It is important to note that following a review a provisional grade can stay the same, go up or go down.

If you disagree with the outcome of the internal review we will outline next steps for you nearer to the time.

What if my year group has to isolate?

We are making contingency plans which will allow us to assess you, with a different level of control, across a digital platform should we need to.

This is also why we have not created a formal examinations calendar for you that doesn't allow for flexibility. In doing this, if you did need to isolate as a year group you may miss a key subject examination.

Instead we have planned mini assessments for you which are spread out across your subject lessons next half term which reduces the impact of absence on a particular subject should you need to isolate.

Spreading out the mini assessments and placing them within a sequence of lessons guided by your teachers also aims to support you in this process.

What if I am studying a BTEC, vocational qualification or the Skills Challenge Certificate?

Pupils studying vocational qualifications, BTECs and the Skills Challenge Certificate will continue to complete tasks and work in the usual way.

As these qualifications are based on coursework or tasks completed, your teacher will continue to guide you through this, using the adapted materials and guidance from the relevant exam board.

Your teachers will update and share a checklist with you, to guide you through and explain which pieces of coursework will be used since there is some flexibility here.

At the time of writing we are awaiting further guidance on BTEC and vocational qualifications.

Will there be a school-based results day in August?

AS and A level final results will be issued on Tuesday 10th August.

GCSE results will be issued on Thursday 12th August.

Our school arrangements for results day will depend on Welsh Government guidance in place in August.

If it is safe to do so and in line with the guidance at the time, we hope to bring pupils into school in a safe and organized way to collect the results issued in person.

In this situation, arrangements can be made for those pupils who are unable to collect their results in person.

More information on this will be shared nearer the time.

Special Consideration

The process of centres submitting Special Consideration applications to awarding bodies will not apply this summer.

However, your Special Consideration can be applied by your teachers if a pupil experiences significant events outside of their control *at the time of taking the relevant assessments*.

These include:

- *Temporary illness or accident or injury*
- *Bereavement*
- *Domestic crisis*
- *Access arrangements which have not been applied for some reason.*

Your Head of Year, Mr. Walker or Mr. Slater will be able to advise you further on this. If you think you may be entitled to Special Consideration please speak to the above-named staff.

Your teachers are here to help

Your teachers are here to help and guide you.

Speak to your subject teachers about any information on your current grades that school has previously sent home for you.

It may help you to explore the published grade descriptors with your teachers if you are worried about your potential grade and consider ways in which you could improve.

Your teachers will not be in a position to feedback the summative marks of your mini assessments as it will take time to standardise and moderate the marking of different classes.

Remember that your CDG grade will be a 'best fit grade'.

Questions?

Do get in touch and ask your subject teachers questions if you have them. Your teachers will be pleased to discuss this process with you.

Do chat with your teachers about the grades you think it is realistically possible for you to achieve. They will be happy to discuss this with you.

Do speak to any member of staff if you are feeling overwhelmed or anxious.

'I can do all things through him who gives me strength'
Philippians 4.13

