



22 March 2021

Dear Parent / Carer / Student

TEACHER ASSESSED GRADES SUMMER 2021

You will be aware that exams have been cancelled this year and that students will be awarded grades based on teacher assessment and school moderation. We are conscious of the need to reassure students and their families of the processes that will now take place to ensure that all students, due to receive examination grades this summer, achieve grades that reflect their hard work, resilience and determination despite the enduring pandemic.

Rationale

The rationale behind our approach is outlined below. Our values of Truth, Respect, Equality and Excellence continue to underpin all our decision making processes and subsequent actions.

- To ensure that SDCC and the Atrium have an evidence based, robust process of awarding exam grades.
- To support all teachers and students to provide grades which accurately reflect each student's ability.
- To support the emotional health and well-being of our students.
- To maximise every opportunity to evidence student work.
- To maintain integrity and honesty in the moderation and awarding of grades.

Process

In anticipation of the cancelling of exams teachers have been gathering a broad range of evidence to support them with moderating and submitting a final grade to the awarding bodies. Evidence that will be used in the awarding of grades will include, but is not exclusive to; Curriculum Assessments (details below), Mock Exams, in class assessments / essays, classwork, homework, independent study and attitude to learning. However it is important to highlight that, in recognition of the interrupted nature of education over the last year, teachers will only assess students' performance on the content that has been delivered. Teaching of examination groups continues in earnest to provide students with every opportunity to demonstrate what they are capable of. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that students are attending **all** their lessons, completing all work set, responding to feedback and making every minute of every lesson count. We will make use of every available moment throughout the remainder of the spring term and all of the first half of the summer term to ensure students have every opportunity to continue to demonstrate their capability.

Timeframe

From Easter no new content will be taught. However, we are committed to ensuring that students have all the knowledge that is expected to facilitate the seamless continuation of their studies into the next phase of their education; be that University, Apprentice schemes, College or the 6th form. The focus of the summer half term will be on curriculum assessments and the completion of any outstanding evidence to the very best of each student's ability. Once finalised this week, we will share with parents / carers and students a more detailed calendar of the Curriculum Assessments. However, the table below gives an outline of our intention for the first half of the summer term. The Curriculum Assessments will be a series of in – class assessments that will further serve to provide evidence to support teacher judgement of student outcomes. The scope of these assessments will be shared with students in advance, to enable them to prepare to the best of their ability, and all normal assessment support that individuals are entitled to (Exam Access Arrangements) will be observed. Outcomes of these assessments will provide further robust evidence in the awarding of the final grades.

Cont/d

Week Commencing	Process
05/04/2021	EASTER HOLIDAYS
12/04/2021	
19/04/2021	In class preparation continues
26/04/2021	Assessment and moderation window. Subjects allocated a week in which they can carry out their assessments in class. Accumulation and moderation of evidence to continue up to half term.
03/05/2021	
10/05/2021	
17/05/2021	
24/05/2021	
31/05/2021	HALF TERM
07/06/2021	
14/06/2021	Final submission of grades by the school to the awarding bodies 18/6/21

Moderation

Departments are finalising their rigorous moderation processes that all evidence, and ultimately the final awarded grades will go through, to ensure that grades are awarded with integrity and rigor. All grades will be moderated at a class, subject, school and Trust level ensuring procedural and evidential accuracy.

Leaving Date

Students will not be expected to return to school full time after May half term break, as all results will have been submitted by that time. However, after half term we will be putting in place focused days to support the students in preparation for September and these days will be mandatory. This will include; South Dartmoor and the Atrium 6th form preparation, subject enrichment for Y11, as well as careers advice and guidance. More details will be sent in the coming weeks, after discussion with students themselves regarding what would be most helpful to them. Students do not officially come off roll until the end of June, therefore attendance in school for preparation and support days is expected. We are hopeful that during this time we will also be able to give Y11 and 13 students a really good send off, lockdown restrictions allowing.

Results Days

Results will be released on the 10th and 12th August, A Level and GCSE respectively, details of whether these will be on site or remote will be confirmed closer to the time in line with the Trust and Government advice. The earlier nature of these results days mean that students will have time to consider their options regarding the next phase of their education and we will be supporting all of our students with that process. The 6th form team will, as always, be on hand to provide the support, advice and guidance to all students following the release of their results, be that liaising with universities admission teams or guiding them on to the right courses in the 6th form.

You will shortly receive a more detailed plan of the Curriculum Assessments as well as the arrangements for the end of term for our Y11 and Y13 students. Year 12 students irrespective of whether they are taking As Levels are expected to continue attending lessons throughout the entirety of the summer term until the end of the summer term on Friday 23 July 2021.

Kind regards



Mrs E Gallagher
Deputy Head teacher

Truth Respect Equality Excellence