



St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College



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Head Teacher: Mr. D. Juric
Chair of Governors: Mr. G. Moorhouse

19th May 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I am writing with an update and further information on the grading process for Year 13. Students have been working hard over a number of weeks on revision and in-class assessments to produce the highest quality evidence they can, to be used in the awarding of this summer's grades. We expect all assessments to be completed by half term, allowing for any student absences.

I remind you of the basis for the awarding of grades nationally this year, which, as stated in my previous letter, is different to last year. Last year, schools were asked to use the work students had produced up until lockdown to estimate what they thought students would have been most likely to have achieved in a normal year. This is not the case this year. Schools are not being asked to make a prediction or estimation. Schools are directed to make a judgment of the grade students are performing at, by assessing them on what they have been taught. In this way, grades will be based on actual work students have produced.

For your information, our Centre Assessment Policy can be accessed via the following link:
<https://www.strobertofnewminster.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/St-Roberts-Centre-Assessment-Policy.pdf>

Which work will be used as evidence?

The section below explains which pieces of work are being used as evidence in each A Level subject:

Biology, Business, Chemistry, Economics, French, Law, Mathematics & Further Mathematics, Philosophy, Physics, Politics, Psychology, RE, Sociology, and Spanish will use the in-class assessments which students will have completed between w/c Monday 29th March and the forthcoming half term (i.e. by Friday 28th May).

Computer Science, English Language, English Literature, Geography, History, Media and Product Design will use the in-class assessments and the awarding body's coursework, which students have produced, and which they will sign to confirm as their own work.

Drama and Physical Education will use the in-class assessments, coursework and records of students' practical performance over the course of the qualification. Students in these two subjects will be provided with details on what performance these records cover.

Art & Design and Photography will only use coursework, no in-class assessments, in line with national guidance.

EPQ will use the project completed over the duration of the course.



The section below will explain which pieces of work are being used as evidence in each Vocational or Technical Qualification (i.e. Engineering, Food, Health and Social Care, ICT and Sport):

Students will be assessed on those units of the course, which have been taught. Some of these units will be in the form of assignments completed during the course of the qualification (in the same way as coursework). Some units will be in the form of in-class assessments, in the same way as for the A Level subjects above. In some cases external assessments may have already taken place for some subjects, or marks may have already been submitted to awarding bodies earlier in the course.

Each student studying these subjects will be given a sheet this half term outlining to them the exact units used for each subject and how they have been assessed.

How will the evidence be used to form a judgment on grading?

The assessments and other evidence will be marked using awarding body mark schemes and will be internally standardised across departments as part of our internal quality assurance procedures. A balanced, holistic judgment will be made in each subject on the grade at which each student is performing based on this evidence. These grades will be awarded using the appropriate grade descriptors, grading exemplification/exemplars, and sector performance indicators, as provided by the awarding bodies. Our processes will also be subject to the awarding bodies' external quality assurance procedures.

How will special consideration apply this year?

Special consideration cannot be applied due to lost teaching and learning, as this is addressed by only assessing on the content students have been taught.

If a student believes that their performance in an assessment has been affected by illness or personal circumstances, they should raise the issue with the school for consideration. Ordinarily, independent supporting evidence will be expected from the student. Circumstances would have to be significant and so the school is already likely to be aware to some degree. The mitigating circumstances must have adversely affected the student at the time of the assessment itself. In such circumstances the school may factor in the information and if appropriate select a different piece of work as evidence.

To raise such concerns students should inform the school via the following email address 2021Grading@str.bwcet.com. We will only consider such circumstances if we are informed via this email address. The deadline for any such communication is Friday 28th May. Any emails received after this date will not be considered.

Results, Results Days and Appeals

As we have previously informed you, the school is not permitted in any circumstances to reveal your grade to you prior to the official Results Day. A Level Results Day is Tuesday 10th August. We currently are expecting the same date for VTQ results. We will message parents/carers and students with the exact arrangements after half term. Guidance on progression to university and other options will also be available.

There will be an appeals process, including a fast track system for students who require a priority appeal due to further progression (e.g. university admission). The guidance for appeals has not yet been published. Therefore, we will update you more fully next half term. However, in summary, a student can ask the school to check for procedural issues. If they remain unsatisfied, they can then appeal to the awarding body, which will again check processes and whether the judgment is reasonable. Please note that grades can stay the same, go up, or go down, as a result of an appeal. Furthermore, no appeals can go ahead without the express consent of the student.



I wish students good luck with their remaining in-class assessments, and will write again next half term regarding Results Day and the appeals process.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Juric
Head Teacher

