

Letter to explain the School's Strategy on agreeing Centre Determined Grades – for year 10, 11, 12 and 13 Year Groups

March, 2021

Dear Parents/carers

As we are now in the position to welcome our students back, parents, staff and students now need to consider how we will work together, to generate your child's **Centre Determined Grade**.

This process has been carefully outlined by **Qualifications Wales** and the different Awarding Examination Bodies. The emphasis of this guidance is very much on the idea that students **cannot be disadvantaged by the time they have had away from school** over the past 12 months.

The guidance asks that the process be a **fair reflection of student' abilities**, but one **rooted in evidence**. We therefore see the next few weeks very much as an opportunities for all students to generate this evidence through Classroom Based Assessments, where students can work in a **positive and supportive environment** to produce the evidence needed.

Staff can also use evidence already held by the school, which pupils will have generated over the past 3 Years to consolidate these assessments. So the important message is **the work your child has already done has not been wasted**. However, the assessment opportunities will also allow your child to add to this evidence base and therefore also allow them to access better grades.

It is important to remind your child that **even if they have missed more school than other students** they will not be disadvantaged. Some students might be worried that they have very little evidence held in school, so to ensure all students are given the **fairest opportunity** to do well in the Classroom Based Assessments the content of them can only be **based only on the skills your child has covered**.

Staff have been asked to spend time over the coming weeks **consolidating learning** around the **key skills for each subject** and when this has been done to break down the assessment into smaller manageable sections.

The **number of pieces of evidence required by each department will vary**, but even if the evidence is only made up of the Classroom Based Assessments scheduled for the next few weeks students can still be awarded a grade based solely on this evidence.

We want to reassure you that if your child has an **ALN or has examination arrangements** in place school will work with staff to ensure your child is given the appropriate level of support during this time to ensure they can reach their full potential.

The school is also **dedicated to using robust quality assurance methods** at all levels of this process. These measures will ensure all pupils are treated fairly and their individual

circumstances are considered. To support this process you will receive a short report outlining your child's **current Estimates for all the subjects** they are currently studying. It is important to stress that **these are not your child's CDG** they are only the current Estimates based on where your child's current tracking suggests they stand. Students and staff now have the opportunity to gather evidence to **secure these grades and in many cases improve these grades** further through the Classroom Based Assessment opportunities.

Please can you take time to reassure your child about this process. We very much want this process to be **fair and thorough but most importantly seen as being as positive as we can possibly make it**. Your child's wellbeing is of genuine importance to us and we do not want any of our children worrying about returning to school. Staff have all been very carefully briefed about reassuring students and using positive and supportive language around this important work.

When the school is given more clarity around time lines and any further guidance, we will of course contact you, however if you have any questions regarding this process in the meantime please contact your child's pastoral team.



Jennifer Ford