

March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

### GCSE and A-Level Results 2021

We understand that the past few months must have been very unsettling for you since the announcement of the cancellations of the examinations for GCSEs and A Levels, and that you have eagerly been waiting for news on this. As you may be aware, the Department for Education and Ofqual very recently published additional information on the process for GCSE and A Level qualifications for this academic year.

Let us start by reassuring you that our overriding aim is to be fair whilst following all the guidance from the Department of Education and Ofqual. We do not wish to disadvantage students as a result of this unprecedented time, as they progress to sixth form, college, university or into employment.

As you may be aware, Teacher Assessed Grades will be used to award qualification grades. Teachers will use assessment-based evidence to determine the final grade each student will receive for each qualification. Further information on the evidence that will be used for our students will be communicated at a later date once the finer details for each subject at both GCSE and A Level have been confirmed. Overall, it will be no easier or harder for a student to achieve a particular grade this year compared to previous years. The government have stated that “no students will be disadvantaged in their grade due to the Pandemic” and this is what we aim to uphold.

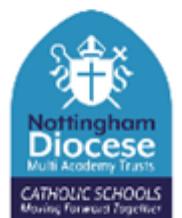
Students who are completing BTEC qualifications need to continue working on these qualifications and they will continue to be assessed by teachers and the projects/ assignments will continue to contribute to the overall grade.

We will continue to review and look at the support materials that exam boards have said they are going to provide, as well as any advice that comes out to support teachers with their assessed grades.

With students returning to school this week we wish to provide an outline of how we will be supporting them in completing their courses and assessing their abilities in each subject. Students will be working towards completing new content over the first two weeks of return to school. Some subjects will finish sooner or may have already completed the content for their course. Future assessments will only cover material which has been taught over the last two (A-Level) or three (GCSE) academic years.

During the coming weeks it will be clearly indicated to students if a piece of work is “high stake” and will contribute towards their grade, or is “low stake” and will not be taken into account.

From 22<sup>nd</sup> March onwards the focus in lessons will be on consolidation of knowledge and understanding, effective revision techniques, and practice questions. This will continue in the run up to Easter. The aim of this is to support our students as much as possible in preparing them for the assessments that will take place in May. These will be “high stake” and the topics to revise for these assessments will be communicated with



students at the earliest opportunity. Materials used for these assessments will be original and secure in order to ensure fairness between students.

**For Year 11 students** the assessment window will be between 26<sup>th</sup> April and 21<sup>st</sup> May. There will typically be 2 assessments per subject, although this may be different for a small number of subjects.

**For Year 13 students** the assessment window will be between 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 21<sup>st</sup> May. There will typically be 2 assessments per subject although for some subjects there may be 3 assessments.

**For Year 12 students** the assessment window will be between 10<sup>th</sup> May and 21<sup>st</sup> May. This assessment window is only for students who are studying 4 AS Levels and are therefore dropping one of these subjects at the end of Year 12. There will be 1-2 assessments per subject as directed by the Leader of Learning for each subject. There will be further assessments for the whole Year 12 cohort across all the subjects they study in the last half term of this academic year, details on the exact dates of these assessments will be communicated later.

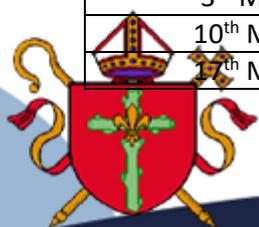
More details on the assessment timetable, number of assessments and content to be revised will be provided over the next two weeks by individual departments. An overview sheet will also be produced to ensure all students and parents are well informed.

If your child usually has access arrangements for examinations, then these will still be put in place for the May assessments.

During the assessment window all students will still be attending school so that we can provide booster sessions, targeted support, and additional support during their independent revision. The emphasis will be on making sure all students have access to the help that they need to succeed.

An outline of the dates for each phase of study and assessment is shown in the table below:

Week beginning	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Complete content for subjects.	Carry on covering year 12 programme of study	Complete content for subjects.
15 <sup>th</sup> March			
22 <sup>nd</sup> March	Focus on revision and preparation for May assessments.		Focus on revision and preparation for May assessments.
29 <sup>th</sup> March			
5 <sup>th</sup> April	Easter		
12 <sup>th</sup> April			
19 <sup>th</sup> April	Preparation for May assessments.	Carry on covering year 12 programme of study	Preparation for May assessments.
26 <sup>th</sup> April	Assessments		
3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Assessments		
10 <sup>th</sup> May	Assessments	Assessments	Assessments
17 <sup>th</sup> May	Assessments	Assessments	Assessments



We do recognise that these are difficult times for students and parents/carers alike and we would like to reassure you that our staff will be objective, fair and balanced and that we will operate moderation processes within departments and across our school to ensure consistency of judgements from teacher to teacher. **Please can we ask you not to contact the school or teachers individually to ask about these teacher assessed grades or to seek to influence the process.** Staff have been instructed to keep all elements of this process confidential.

Ofqual have stated that exam results days will be earlier than normal, 10 August 2021 for AS and A Level, and 12 August for GCSE results.

The message for the return to school is that it is really important that your child continues to work hard and complete all assignments. This will put them in the best position ready for the May assessments and make it easier for their teachers to award them the grade that they deserve.

Thank you for all your support during this particularly difficult time.

Yours sincerely



**Chris Maher**  
Director of Performance and Standards  
Our Lady of Lourdes CMAT



**Paul Greig**  
Headteacher, The Becket School

