

21 October 2021

Curriculum Update Assessment Guidelines

Dear Parents / Carers and Students

We have received an update from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) on how general qualifications (GCSE and A level) will be assessed this academic year. In essence, awarding organisations will provide us with advance information about the content of examinations. Each subject area will take a slightly different approach and the details can be found in the following document: <https://www.jcq.org.uk/summer-2022-arrangements/>.

It should be noted that the Department for Education and Ofqual are considering the potential use of Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) as a contingency for the awarding of qualifications in 2022. It is important to stress that the government's firm intention is that exams **will take place in 2022**, the DfE and Ofqual are consulting on proposals for the use of TAGs as a contingency arrangement in the event that exams are not able to go ahead.

I would also like to take this opportunity to highlight the Parent Portal which can be accessed on our main website by selecting the Parents section at the top of the page. A direct link is <https://parent.varndean.ac.uk/>

Once registered, Parents are able to access a range of information including attendance, tracking and timetable details. One very useful feature is the mark book which will include details of key assessments that are completed throughout the year. Assessments that appear on mark book are used to determine student progress and will contribute to a teacher's judgement of the "working at grade" which will be awarded in report cards that are sent home in November and February. I will explain more about the features of our report cards when I write again to parents after half term.

I would like to highlight that Key Assessments that appear on mark book after November 1st 2021 would form the main evidence base used to determine teacher assessed grades should we be required to provide them, this will include formal in class assessment that we will complete in January. Of course, we hope that these TAG's will not be needed, but felt it only right that we inform all of this possible contingency.

Teachers will of course provide more details to students of the Key Assessments that take place throughout the year, so that all learners are well prepared and able to show their true potential.

Best Wishes,

James Gordon
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