

AWARDING OF SUMMER EXAM GRADES Summer 2021

Please find the outline of our plans for the awarding of summer grades in cases where exams have been cancelled.

While we still have a small number of on demand assessments taking place (such as Criminology), most external exams have been cancelled this year because of the disruption to learning caused by Covid-19. In these cases, grades will be determined by the judgement of teachers and subjected to a rigorous internal moderation process.

We have in place a robust process for the awarding of grades. We wholeheartedly believe that teachers know their students best and we are confident that this process will result in fair grades being awarded.

The college has implemented guidance from exam boards and from the Joint Council for Qualifications. They have produced a [guide for parents and students](#) which explains the national process.

Varndean College has produced our [Centre Assessment Policy](#) inline with JCQ regulations which outlines our Teacher Assessed Grade procedure in detail.

Evidence

Teachers will assess the level at which students have consistently performed throughout their entire course of study. We do not expect that every piece of evidence produced by a student will be at the same grade or level, but this will be a holistic judgement which means a range of evidence will be considered in order to determine a fair grade.

Evidence could include:

- Substantial pieces of classwork or homework
- In class assessments taken during the assessment window
- Substantial pieces of work produced throughout the course such as essays, reports and assignments
- Practice exam grades
- Formal assessments as recorded in mark book
- Coursework, even where this is not complete

In each subject, teachers will explain to students the type of evidence being used. They may discuss with students the grades for individual assignments, but will not discuss the overall grade as the guidance clearly states that this should not be shared until the results days in August.

Assessment Window

Students will undertake some in class assessments which will be used alongside other work to form a 'basket' of evidence. We have been operating this assessment window from 19 April until 14th May.

These are not exams and are not intended to replace exams, and assessments may not take place under exam conditions. However, we will endeavour to provide exam access arrangements for students who need them as far as we can.

Vocational Courses

For students on vocational courses, the assessment process is largely unchanged, but some examined units will be replaced by teacher assessed grades. The final grade will be based on overall performance similar to other courses.

Appeals Process

Details of our appeal's process will be outlined once we have received guidance from JCQ.

Key Dates

Assessment Window: Monday 19th-Friday 14th May 2021

Last day of teaching for Yr2 and Pre-advanced students: 14th May – you will need to be available until Friday 28th May 2021

Final day of college: Friday 28th May 2021

Leaver's Event: Friday 25th June 2021

Results Day: A Level and L3 Vocational 10th August 2021, GCSE and L2 Vocational 12th August

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Evidence could include:

- Substantial pieces of classwork or homework
- In class assessments taken during the assessment window
- Substantial pieces of work produced throughout the course such as essays
- Mock exam grades
- Formal assessments as recorded in the Pro Portal grade book

- Coursework, even where this is not complete

Teachers will talk to students about the type of evidence being used. They may discuss with students the grades for individual assignments, but will not discuss the overall grade as the guidance clearly states that this should not be shared until the results days in August.

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