

23 April 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following on from the JCQ Guidance that we sent out last week, we are now in a position to add more detail and share how this is going to work at Parkside Academy KS4.

In recent weeks, senior leaders and subject leaders have been exploring the implications of the guidance produced by Ofqual relating to the awarding of grades to Y11 students in summer 2021. This letter is designed to outline the approach that will be taken by the school in interpreting and implementing the Ofqual guidance, and that which we have received from the exam boards.

All subject areas will be collecting evidence of students' achievement. It is likely that some of this evidence will be drawn from work done between our recent return to school and the end of the school year, with the rest coming from work done during the rest of the course. However, there is flexibility built into the guidance, and the balance between recent work and older work can vary between subjects, and between students within a subject.

There are no rules about how much evidence is required for each subject. **However, it is expected that no grade will be awarded based on a single piece of evidence.** Evidence can be responses to past papers or sections of past papers, coursework or sections of coursework, or any substantial task undertaken within class. The evidence can include records of assessed practical work in some subjects. In all cases, the initial marking of the assessed work will be carried out by the students' own teachers.

Subject staff will compile the evidence materials and will grade this work using a 'best fit' approach. This means that an unusually low grade for one piece of work is not likely to have a major impact on the final centre grade.

To ensure that students produce the evidence that will allow staff to give them a positive grade, they should continue to work hard and steadily for the rest of this year. I would like to stress that they should not panic about whether or not they are doing enough to prepare for every assessment, or worry that every lesson is going to be 'like an exam'.

From Tuesday 4th May we will be holding a series of tasks to allow teachers to gather further evidence which will form part of the work to determine the grade that will be awarded in August. The assessment tasks will take place in normal timetabled lessons at school and topic lists have been provided to aid revision.



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Staff have been briefed about the requirements of the evidencing process and each subject team is putting together a plan linked to the specific context of their courses. These plans will be designed to secure the necessary evidence without overwhelming students. The school has to submit all the centre assessed grades to the exam boards by 11th June. In order to meet this deadline we will require all students' work to be completed and submitted by this date.

Please find attached the timetable of tasks.

Yours sincerely,



Nick Stevens
Head of School Parkside KS4



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Parkside Academy GCSE Assessment Task Schedule

All assessments where possible will take place during the students' normal timetabled lessons.

Week Beginning	Subject Area Assessment
4th May	<p>Maths – Paper 1 Non-Calculator</p> <p>Geography Paper 3</p> <p>Science Synergy Paper 2</p> <p>Imedia Mini tests for students who did not sit the exam in January</p>
10 th May	<p>Biology paper 2</p> <p>Science synergy paper 4</p> <p>Philosophy and Ethics paper 4</p> <p>English literature (1 hour) A Christmas Carol</p> <p>English literature (1 hour) An Inspector Calls</p>
17 th May	<p>Maths – Paper 2 Calculator</p> <p>English literature (1 hour) Romeo and Juliet</p> <p>English literature (1 hour) Unseen Poetry</p> <p>History – Paper 1 and 2</p>