



Painsley Catholic College

Specialist Science College

Specialist Mathematics and Computing College

Principal: Mrs R Waugh BA (Hons). PGCE

CEO: Mr S G Bell, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

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31st March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

You may be aware that JCQ (Joint Council for Qualifications) has issued guidance to schools regarding how teacher assessed grades will be awarded in GCSEs and A levels this year. We await further guidance from exam boards but we can inform you of the broad principles we will use in most departments. We are currently working on detailed policy statements, which will be sent to exam boards by 30th April for approval. The following explains the key points that we hope will be of use in the interim period:

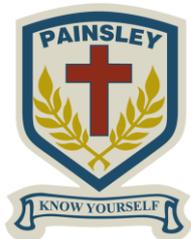
- We will provide training to staff to ensure consistency and fairness for all our students.
- Approximately 70% of the weighting of a student's grade will be from work already completed. For example, in mock exams, in coursework, in class and at home.
- The remaining 30% will be from work that will be completed over the coming weeks up to 8th June. This will be a mixture of homework/classwork and an average of 3 formal assessments sat in test conditions.
- The assessments will be based on specification titles but students will not know the exact questions that will be asked prior to the assessment. This is so we can present a clear case to exam boards and prove that your child has covered the required specification and assessment objectives.
- Students who are entitled to access arrangements in exams will continue to receive the additional support in the 3 assessments.
- Grades will not be given to students on any work completed between now and 8th June as we are not able to distinguish grades given for individual pieces of work.
- Teachers will use the evidence to award an overall grade.
- Please note that the guidance states that undue pressure on teachers by students or parents must be avoided, and should be reported to the exam board as potential malpractice.
- Your child may be asked for evidence of past work, for example, their old mock papers and books. Teachers will advise them about this process.
- Decisions about potential must not factor in the students' grades. We can only award grades based on the evidence we have for your child. Therefore, basing a grade on a predicted trajectory or target grade is not permitted.
- We will have a thorough moderation process in school and this will also be supported by the exam boards including the possibility of external quality assurance processes.
- Internal moderation will include a comparison against results from previous years when exams have taken place (2017 to 2019) – as per JCQ guidance.
- Following Easter, limited new content will be covered by teachers but we will build on what has been taught to date.
- It is important that students understand that normal test procedures will apply in the assessments. Similarly, students must follow specific instructions given to them by their teachers when completing homework.



National Teaching School
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National College for
Teaching & Leadership



The Painsley Catholic Academy.
A company limited by guarantee registered in
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- At this stage of the process we anticipate that, following 8th June, not all students will be expected to attend College full time. However, identified classes/students may need to attend in order to strengthen the evidence base required.
- We will consider how we can support your child with, for example, transition to their next stage of education.

We hope this goes some way to explain our initial thinking and we look forward to sharing more details with you soon.

I ask you not to book any holidays prior to 18th June as this is the last day for providing evidence to the exam boards. Thank you for your support. In the meantime, it is really important that students work very hard between now and 8th June to ensure that they achieve their full potential.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs R Waugh
Principal



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