

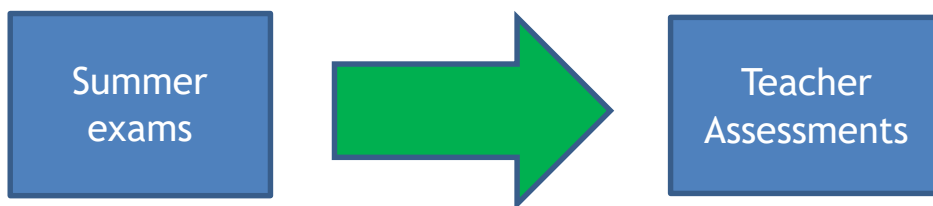
2 March 2021

TO ALL Y11 PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parent/Carer

Following Ofqual's announcement last Thursday, we are now in a position to share more details about how Y11 grades will be calculated in 2021.

The way qualifications will be assessed has changed and summer examinations will be replaced with teacher assessments:



Teacher assessments will be made up of a wide range of evidence provided through independent tasks and summative assessments. Every learner has the opportunity to demonstrate the knowledge and understanding they have gained through hard work and perseverance and teacher assessments offer a fair assessment of learners' work without the uncertainty of external examinations.

Departments will issue learners with an overview of how their grades will be calculated and this will include, where applicable, how coursework components will be taken into account. The information below is a broad overview of those subjects which were due to be assessed this summer. Please note that for business and engineering the assessment point schedule is different due to examinations which were due to take place in January and February; more information specific to these two subjects will follow in due course.

- **Independent Tasks**. When learners follow the learning journey they are taught through modelling and the co-construction of work until they are sufficiently confident to complete work independently. Independent work could consist of extended writing, short assessment tasks, independent practice questions and examination questions. This independent work will provide learners with the opportunity to receive constructive feedback from teachers to support them to deepen their knowledge and understanding. These tasks prepare learners to complete summative assessments.

- Summative Assessments. Y11 learners have six assessment points planned throughout the year and learners will have completed three assessment points by the end of February. Progress Reports will be sent out shortly for all Y11 learners and will give an indication of current attainment. Learners know in advance what each summative assessment is based on and will have completed sufficient independent practice to be well prepared for the assessment. Each assessment is based on the topic recently covered and some interleaved previous topics. We use adaptations to standardised assessments where possible, e.g. past exam papers, and we intend to use the exam boards' standardised assessments when these become available in Assessment Point (AP) 6.

The summative assessments will comprise questions similar to those completed in the independent tasks and will only include material which has been covered by learners.

AP5 and AP6 will be completed by learners under examination conditions and a timetable for these assessments will be available in advance.

The exact end date for Y11 will be determined after the AP6 timetable has been published.

Learners will be given an individual code for these assessments and they will use this rather than their name on their assessments. This anonymity will provide learners the assurance against either positive or negative bias.

- Additional Independent Tasks. Learners who have completed their summative assessments to a high attainment may be asked to complete additional independent tasks which will provide evidence of work at the higher grade 9, 8 and 7 standards. The additional independent tasks will consist of short tasks such as extended writing or multi-stepped examination questions which offer a higher level of stretch and challenge to enable learners to demonstrate their higher mastery of the subject.
- Evidence of Work. All summative assessment tasks and additional independent tasks will be collated and will be available for review by the examination boards.
- Grading the Standard of Work. After each assessment point learners' work is moderated by the department and the work is arranged in a rank order. We use adaptations to standardised assessments where possible, e.g. past exam papers, and we can then use the grade boundaries published to superimpose over the rank order of learners. The exam boards standardised assessment grade boundaries will also be used should these be published.

Teacher assessments will be based on the full range of summative assessments. However, AP5 and AP6 will carry the most weighting and the independent tasks will be used to fine tune the final rank order of learners and grade boundaries.

Learners will have the opportunity to inform the academy about their relevant context and mitigating circumstances so special consideration can be factored into the final assignment of grades.

- Appeal Process. After learners receive their results they can appeal if they feel their grade has been unfairly awarded. Learners can ask the academy to check there has been no administrative error and can ask the exam board to review the academy evidence base. Results can go up or down on appeal.

We are looking forward to welcoming all learners back to the academy next week. Y11 learners will have the opportunity during a presentation from Mr Greene to ask questions about teacher assessments and the coursework element of qualifications.

Learners will receive specific information from each department and an assessment timetable in due course.

I am sure parents/carers and learners will have many questions about the process and it would be helpful if these could be forwarded to office@jcbacademy.com. This will enable us to prepare a Q&A sheet which we will share with you over the next couple of weeks.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J McGuirk
Principal