



# Notre Dame Catholic College

Established 1869

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Our Ref: Admin/KT/PD/41

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Dear Parent / Carer

As you will be aware, external examination grades will be awarded through the process of teacher assessed grades this summer.

The guidance states that:

Teachers can use a range of evidence to make a judgement of the grade they are performing at. Students should only be assessed on what they have been taught, ensuring sufficient coverage of the curriculum to enable progression. When determining the grade, teachers should reflect the standard at which the student is performing now, not their potential.

Teachers should use the time remaining to balance continued teaching with any assessments they want to undertake. Work done at home can be included as evidence to support a teacher's judgement if it cannot be produced in the school or college environment because of the pandemic, and where teachers are confident that it is a student's own work.

Teachers have much evidence for the students from work covered in Year 10, assessments that they have done to date and classwork. We are aware that many students increase their efforts on the approach to exams, and we want to ensure that all students have the opportunity to demonstrate their ability before we award grades.

Currently, students are taking assessment point 2, which assesses how much of the learning that took place in lockdown was understood by the students. Following this, subject teachers will be spending the coming weeks gathering additional evidence to support the awarding of the best grade possible for your son or daughter. This may be tasks set in lessons, short assessments, coursework etc.

*The guidance recommends the following range of evidence is used, where available:*

- *student work produced in response to assessment materials provided by the exam board, including groups of questions, past papers or similar materials such as practice or sample papers*
- *non-exam assessment (NEA) work (often referred to as coursework), even if this has not been fully completed*
- *student work produced in centre-devised tasks that reflect the specification, that follow the same format as exam board materials and have been marked in a way that reflects exam board mark schemes - this can include:*
  - *substantial class or homework (including those that took place during remote learning)*
  - *internal tests taken by pupils*
  - *mock exams taken over the course of study*
  - *records of a student's capability and performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects such as music, drama and PE*
  - *records of each student's progress and performance over the course of study*

Cont.....



We feel that every Year 11 student should feel empowered by this situation. Students who have worked diligently for the past 4 years now have the opportunity to secure the grades they deserve without the additional stresses associated with a packed summer examination schedule. Similarly,

Students who may not have applied themselves fully in the past 4 years now have an opportunity to prove what they were capable of all along.

Either way, we cannot stress enough, how important it is for your child to engage and prepare thoroughly for every single lesson they have over the coming weeks. Every lesson counts. The evidence gained from these lessons and assessments will all contribute, along with existing evidence, to the final grade your son or daughter receives.

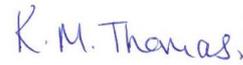
Our priority is to give every student the chance to shine, and achieve the grades that reflects their ability. We will give them every support in doing this.

We ask for your support at home; encouraging your child to arrive to school on time and equipped, work hard in every lesson, complete homework, revision and check class charts for information from their teachers. This is a strange time for Year 11 who have been provided with a truly unique opportunity to excel. We hope every student will take full advantage of that opportunity and look forward to working closely with you and your son or daughter in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Duffy  
Headteacher



Mrs K Thomas  
Senior Assistant Headteacher