



Newtownhamilton High School

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Dear Year 12 Pupil & Parent/Guardian

You will probably be aware from media reports that Northern Ireland's Exam Awarding Body CCEA published their 'Awarding Summer 2021 Alternative Arrangements' last Friday (05/03/21). As a result, I am now in a position to share these requirements with you. It is noted that we are still awaiting instructions from Exam Body AQA (GCSE French & GCSE Technology & Design) but I expect that this information will be similar to that issued by CCEA.

The CCEA document confirms that the approach to awarding Centre Determined Grades (CDGs) in Summer 2021 will be based on teacher professional judgements with moderation. Schools have been asked to use a range of evidence to arrive at a professional and academic judgement of the standard at which each pupil is performing in the context of the subject for which they are entered and from this provide a grade to CCEA. Once all grades have been submitted by the school, CCEA will undertake an evidence sampling exercise within 48 hours and can re-grade the evidence.

In previous correspondence issued on 12/01/21, I stated that all Year 12 pupils would be completing mock exams on return to school and that they should be using this period of remote learning to prepare for these exams. Following CCEA's publication, **I can confirm that pupils will now not be sitting mock exams in our Assembly Hall but rather will be completing a series of subject based assessments (under controlled conditions during timetabled lessons) between the periods Monday 22nd March – Tuesday 29th March and Monday 12th April – Friday 28th May.** Obviously full attendance during these times is essential.

I fully understand that returning after an absence of 13 weeks and being asked to sit a series of assessments is not easy for any pupil in Northern Ireland, but the reality is that teachers cannot award GCSE grades if they do not have the required evidence. No official assessment timetable will be issued to our pupils, however our teachers will ensure that there will be sufficient preparation time for each assessment. It is noted that some teachers have already informed pupils (remotely) of assessments that are taking place during the week commencing Monday 22nd March.

I, therefore, strongly encourage pupils to continue with their revision (they should already have been revising for mock exams) in preparation for these assessments.

Finally, it is noted that our Centre Determined Grades Policy and the CCEA Appeals Policy will be available for all pupils and parents in the near future.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if you wish to discuss this matter further.

Yours faithfully

Neil Megaw

Principal