



# NORTON COLLEGE

## Beyond Expectations

Our Ref: SST/JJA

7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

In March I wrote to you to explain that the Government had confirmed that exams can no longer take place in summer 2021. In this letter I also outlined how Norton College will assess Year 11 students in 2021 and that the way in which students will be assessed is determined by the type of qualification that is being studied. In most cases, and wherever possible, students are being assessed under direct supervision within school. This supports us to protect the integrity of our assessment process and ensure that we comply with the direction that we have received from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). As a school we are only assessing students on the content that has been delivered to them. This enables us to assess students' performance fairly and ensure that students receive a grade that reflects their performance within a subject. Students will receive a grade that reflects the level at which they are currently working rather than a prediction of what they might have achieved if normal assessments had taken place. For this reason, a student's final grade will be evidence-based, and this may be higher or lower than any predicted grades that have been published in the past. Further information on our approach to grading and assessment can be found in our centre policy [here](#).

In our policy we have outlined how teachers will use a range of evidence from more than one source to make a professional, evidence-informed judgement on the grade that a student receives. If a course includes non-exam assessment (for example coursework, investigations, portfolios or practical performances) then these are being completed as normal (wherever possible). These pieces of work will be marked and moderated internally rather than by an examination board. This evidence will be used to support teachers' professional judgements when grading decisions are being made. For courses that would have been assessed only by examination in summer 2021, teachers have used assessment material published by the examination boards to structure internal assessments.

For each subject we will use a range of evidence to determine a student's grade. The selection of this evidence is subject-specific and depends on several variables, including whether a course would ordinarily have been assessed only by examination, only by non-examination assessment or by a combination of examination and non-examination assessment. For some subjects this will involve using evidence of a student's performance from throughout the course. We will determine grades as late as possible in the academic year to ensure that students can be supported to access additional teaching opportunities for as long as possible. We have followed guidance from Ofqual (the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) in determining the range and breadth of evidence that we will use within each subject area to determine the grade that a student receives. In my earlier letter to you I indicated that this evidence was likely to include (but not be limited to) the following:

- One formative (in class) assessment taking place between 12<sup>th</sup> April and 23<sup>rd</sup> April.
- One additional formative (in class) assessment taking place between 26<sup>th</sup> April and 7<sup>th</sup> May.
- One summative (exam-style) assessment taking place between 10<sup>th</sup> May and 25<sup>th</sup> May.
- Mock/PPE examination result(s) from November 2020.
- Performance in non-exam assessment(s), including coursework, practicals and portfolios.

### Specific Sources of Evidence (GCSE and Level 2)

As a school we are now able to confirm the specific sources of evidence that will be considered for each qualification that we will be determining students' grades for in summer 2021. This applies to GCSEs as well as Cambridge National, BTEC and WJEC Award qualifications. These specific sources of evidence are outlined below for each of these qualifications.

GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language
- Formative assessment 1 (Language)
- Formative assessment 2 (Literature)
- Summative assessments (Language and Literature)
- Non-examined assessment (Spoken Language)
- Mock/PPE from November 2020

GCSE Maths
- Formative assessment 1
- Formative assessment 2
- Summative assessment 1
- Summative assessment 2
- 2 Mocks/PPEs from November 2020

GCSE Combined Science
- Formative assessment 1
- Formative assessment 2
- Summative assessment 1
- Mock/PPE from November 2020

BTEC Health & Social Care
- Centre assessed grade (Component 1)
- Assignment 1 (Component 2)
- Mock/PPE from November 2020 (Component 3)
- Summative assessment 1 (Component 3)

Cambridge National Sport Science
- Centre assessed grade (Unit R041)
- Centre assessed grade (Unit R042)
- Assignment (R043)
- Assignment (R045)

GCSE History
- Formative assessment 1
- Formative assessment 2
- Summative assessment 1
- Mock/PPE from November 2020

GCSE Religious Studies
- Formative assessment 1
- Formative assessment 2
- Summative assessment 1
- Mock/PPE from November 2020

GCSE Geography
- Formative assessment 1
- Formative assessment 2
- Formative assessment 3
- Formative assessment 4
- Summative assessment 1
- Mock/PPE from November 2020

GCSE French or GCSE Spanish
- Formative assessment 1
- Formative assessment 2
- Summative assessment 1
- Mock/PPE from November 2020
- Class speaking test (used for Speaking Endorsement ONLY and reported separately using pass, merit or distinction)

GCSE Business
- Formative assessment 1
- Formative assessment 2
- Summative assessment 1

GCSE Computing
- Formative assessment 1
- Formative assessment 2
- Summative assessment 1
- Mock/PPE from November 2020

Cambridge National IT
- Formative assessment 1
- Formative assessment 2
- Summative assessment 1
- Coursework
- Module result from January 2021 examination

Hospitality and Catering (WJEC Award)
- Centre assessed grade (Unit 1)
- Unit 1 resit (for selected students)
- Internal practical assessment (Unit 2)

GCSE Art & Design
- Component 1: Portfolio

GCSE Photography
- Component 1: Portfolio

BTEC Creative Media
- Centre assessed grade (Component 1)
- Internal assessment (Component 2)
- Activity 1, 2 and 3 (Component 3)

BTEC Performing Arts
- Centre assessed grade (Component 1)
- Internal assessment (Component 2)
- Centre assessed grade (Component 3)

BTEC Music
- External assessment grade from January 2020 (or January 2021 resit) for Unit 1
- Centre assessed grade (Unit 2)
- Internal assessment (Unit 3)
- Internal assessment (for Unit 4 or Unit 5 depending on the option the student takes)

### Year 11 Leaving Date

We have shared with Year 11 students that they will not be expected to attend college from Monday 7th June onwards. This is subject to students having completed all necessary assessments which contribute towards their final grades. Where this is not the case, students will be expected to attend college until these assessments are complete.

Over the next few weeks, we will release information about transition activities supporting the progression of Year 11 students to sixth form or college. It is expected that students fully engage with the transition process. These activities are likely to include visits to education providers, independent study and remote provision, combined with attendance in person. The work will be relevant and will be supported by teachers and support staff.

By the final week of the half term (w/c 24/5/21), the majority of assessment work that will contribute to the final grades will have been completed. However, there will continue to be a range of ongoing assessment work across vocational subjects over this week. Additionally, there will be a number of students who will need to complete assessments for which they were absent. Students will continue to follow their normal timetable over the course of this week and lessons will continue to focus upon subject-specific content. On Friday 28th May we will run leavers' assemblies for students in Year 11, further details of which will be shared closer to the time.

## Year 11 Leavers' Events

Leavers' events for Year 11 students have become a rite of passage over recent years. However, the pandemic has made it very difficult to plan for such events over the past year. We are aware of students' enthusiasm for such an event to take place and, unlike many other schools locally, we have provisionally scheduled a Year 11 prom to take place at the college site on Friday 16th July.

We have made clear to students that this is subject to the full re-opening of society at stage 4 of the government's roadmap which is currently scheduled for 21st June. It is also subject to Year 11 students following our expectations of conduct and behaviour throughout their remaining time at the school.

## Release of Results

In my earlier letter to you I outlined that the results day for GCSE and Level 2 qualifications was Thursday 12 August 2021. I will write to you in the next few weeks to provide further information about our approach to results day and how we will make results available to students on this date.

Please be reminded that staff cannot discuss or share grading information with students prior to these dates. All grading information must remain confidential to comply with the instruction that we have received from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) and Ofqual (the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation).

## Further Information

The information contained within this letter is underpinned by, and based upon, the guidance that we have received from the Government. This guidance can be accessed directly:

- [Ofqual: How qualifications will be awarded in 2021](#)
- [Ofqual: How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021](#)
- [Ofqual: Decisions on how GCSE, AS and A level grades will be determined in summer 2021](#)

We hope that this information is helpful and that it has addressed any questions that you may have had about the grading and awarding process for students receiving qualifications in summer 2021. We will continue to provide further updates to you on the approach that we are taking to ensure that all our students receive the grade that they deserve.

In the meantime, please continue to help, support and encourage your child to make the most of the opportunities that they are offered over the coming weeks. If you do have further queries or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Stones  
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