



# NORTON COLLEGE

## Beyond Expectations

Our Ref: SST /JJA

14<sup>th</sup> May 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

In March the Government confirmed that exams can no longer take place in summer 2021. This means that Norton College will need to make grading decisions for students that would ordinarily have sat these assessments and received a qualification in 2021. In most cases this only applies to qualifications being studied by our current Year 11 and Year 13 students. However, in a small number of cases, we do have qualifications being studied by Year 12 students for which a grade would have been awarded at the end of Year 12. These qualifications are outlined in the tables at the end of this letter. This information also applies to students in Year 13 who may be resitting a Year 12 qualification.

In these cases, Norton College will, where possible, 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 these qualifications, 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](#).

For each subject we will use, where possible, 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. This evidence may include (but is not 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).
- Performance in non-exam assessment(s), including coursework, practicals and portfolios.

### Specific Sources of Evidence (AS Level or Other Year 12 Qualifications, plus Year 12 Qualifications Studied by Year 13 Students)

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 AS Level and other Level 3 qualifications that students will receive a grade for at the end of Year 12. These specific sources of evidence are outlined below for each of these qualifications.

AS Level Maths
- Formative assessment 1
- Formative assessment 2
- Summative assessment 1

AS Level Business
- Formative assessment 1
- Formative assessment 2
- Summative assessment 1

BTEC Performing Arts
- Unit 3 Group Performance

BTEC Sport (Single)
- Assignment (Unit 7)
- Formative 1 (Unit 1)
- Formative 2 (Unit 1)
- Summative 1 (Unit 1)

BTEC Sport (Double)
- Assignment (Unit 7)
- Formative 1 (Unit 1)
- Formative 2 (Unit 1)
- Summative 1 (Unit 1)
- Formative 1 (Unit 22)
- Summative 1 (Unit 22)
- Assignment (Unit 23)

### Release of Results

The results day for AS Levels and other Level 3 courses is Tuesday 10 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 this date. 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  
Assistant Headteacher – Curriculum and Assessment