



St. Joseph's RC High School

Ysgol Uwchradd Gatholig Joseff Sant

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Headteacher/Pennaeth: Mrs J Jarrett BA(Hons) M.A NPQH

16th March, 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Summer assessments 2021

I hope this letter finds you and your family well and that you, like me, are pleased that we are beginning a return back to normal school life. I realise that while we welcome a slow return to normality, this will be a time of some anxiety for pupils in examination years, and their families. I would like to reassure you of what your child will experience on their return to school.

Initial return to school: Monday 15th March to Friday 26th March

During our initial two weeks back in school, the focus will be on your child's wellbeing, using the time to re-engage with their teachers and to gain some understanding of what the rest of their academic year might look like. This will include some information about how their qualifications will be awarded this year.

Assessment arrangements for summer 2021

As you will be aware, since Welsh Government decided to cancel examinations for this summer, Qualifications Wales are working with the WJEC to support schools in providing a process by which students will be assessed. This summer, every student in Years 11, 12 and 13 will receive a 'Centre-Determined Grade'(CDG) in each subject, which is awarded by the school. This CDG will be based on evidence gained in three ways:

1. A number of assessments completed during the summer term, taken from WJEC adapted past papers
2. Non-examined assessments (NEAs), most of which will already have been completed
3. Other assessed work from the rest of the course of study which can be used to confirm a grade

1. Assessments taken from WJEC adapted past papers

- During the first half of the summer term, Monday 12th April to Friday 28th May, in each subject, your child will undertake a number of short assessments.
- All the assessments will be utilising the papers adapted by the WJEC for the purpose of assessment 2021 where possible.
- These assessments are not examinations; they are opportunities for students to show the knowledge and skills they have developed during their course, to provide evidence for their teacher when determining their overall grade.

When will these assessments happen?

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- Your child's assessments will be built into each subject's teaching and learning programme so that every student has several opportunities to show what they can do.
- The assessments will take place in their lessons.
- There will be several assessment opportunities in each subject area.
- No Centre-Determined Grade will ever be based on one single assessment.
- Your child's teachers will explain what assessments they will be undertaking, when they will take place and how they fit into the teaching and learning programme.

2. Non-examined assessments (NEAs)

- Where NEAs form a part of your child's course, this will contribute towards their Centre-Determined Grade.
- It may be that your child has already completed their NEA and there is no further work to be completed.
- In a small number of cases, there may still be some work to be completed and this can be completed during the period between 12th April and 28th May.
- Your child will receive this information from their teacher.

3. Other assessed work

- Other evidence which could contribute towards your child's Centre-Determined Grade may come from work they completed earlier in the course. This may be other WJEC past paper questions which have been completed under controlled conditions, earlier in the course.
- Other assessments completed during the whole course of study can be used to confirm a grade judgement, only.
- Your child will be told by their teacher which assessments have contributed to their Centre-Determined Grade.

What can you do to support your child?

Please reassure your child that their teachers want to give them every opportunity to show what they can do and that they must not regard these assessments as tests or examinations. Please encourage your child to speak to their teacher if they have any worries or concerns about this assessment process.

What else does your child need to know?

Early next term, I will be able to share further information regarding our school approach to assessment.

If you have any questions or have any concerns, please contact us at school. You can contact me on jmorgan@sjhs.newport.sch.uk. At present, I may not have all the answers to your questions but I will do whatever I can to help.

I would like to once again thank you for your support of your child's education. This has been such a challenging year and yet we will continue to do our best to ensure your child has the best educational experience we can provide.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Morgan
Deputy Headteacher

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