



Believe, Succeed, Together

GCSE Grades FAQ

Background

The Government made an [announcement](#) on 6th January confirming that GCSE externally-assessed examinations would not go ahead in the summer of 2021. To determine how GCSE grades would be awarded, a joint consultation between the DfE and Ofqual was subsequently launched.

On 25th February, the Government made an [announcement](#) on the outcome of the consultation and Ofqual published a [report](#).

Questions

Q1. How will GCSE grades be determined by the Academy?

GCSE grades will be determined by generating a Centre Assessment Grade (CAG) for each subject.

The CAG is the grade the Academy estimates that a pupil was most likely to achieve.

The CAG is determined using the most-up-to-date Current Grade.

Q2. What is 'Current Grade'?

Current Grade is *'the grade that a pupil could expect to achieve at the end of Year 11, based on a combination of their current performance and a prediction of their achievement over time'*.

Q3. How is Current Grade determined?

It is primarily based on a pupil's 'current performance'. In order to determine this, teachers take into account the following: in-class work (face-to-face and remote learning); non-exam assessment (NEA); internal (in-class) assessments; and internal examinations.

Teachers also apply a 'predictive' element in terms of a pupil's 'achievement over time'. In order to determine this, teachers use their professional judgement regarding the projected trajectory of a pupil's current performance.

Q4. How often is the 'Current Grade' updated by teachers?

Current Grades are updated on a half-termly basis.

Following pupils' return to school from 8th March, Current Grades will be updated again on **16th April** and **28th May**. In terms of the latter date, this is as late as is practically possible before CAGs need to be submitted to exam boards (by **18th June**).

Q5. Have Year 11 pupils been issued their Current Grades?

Yes. Year 11 pupils were issued with an Achievement Report on 22nd January.

The Current Grades for each subject were discussed with parents during a virtual (School Cloud) Parents' Evening on 25th January.

Q6. Have Year 11 pupils been issued with their Predicted Grades?

For the purposes of 6th Form and college applications, Year 11 pupils were first issued with Predicted Grades on 15th November.

When pupils were issued with their Achievement Report on 22nd January, the Current Grade for each subject constituted an updated Predicted Grade.

Q7. With pupils returning to school from 8th March, can their Current Grade change?

Yes. Year 11 pupils will be continuing with the education (draft schedule below) and Current Grades will be updated again on **16th April** and **28th May**.

Period	Activity
8 th March – 26 th March	Normal timetabled lessons
12 th April – 30 th April	Normal timetabled lessons and exam preparation
4 th May – 28 th May	Normal timetabled lessons and internal exams
7 th June – 18 th June	Post-16 events and activities

Q8. How are Current Grades checked?

Current Grades determined by subject teachers are moderated by the Head of Department and Senior Leader.

Q9. If Current Grades are used to determine Centre Assessed Grades, what further checks are in place?

Confirmatory moderation will be undertaken by the subject teacher, Head of Department and Senior Leader.

All grades will then be independently moderated by the Moderation Team, comprising of the two Vice Principals and Principal (Head of Centre).

Q10. When will Centre Assessed Grades be sent to the exam boards?

By **18th June**.

Q11. Once the Centre Assessed Grades are sent to the exam boards, what checks do they undertake?

Quality assurance will be undertaken by exam boards. A sample of schools (exam centres) will be selected randomly across different representative centre types. Some schools will be selected based on a level of risk.

Q12. When will pupils receive their GCSE results?

Results Day will be brought forward by two weeks i.e. **Thursday 12th August**.

Q13. If a pupil does not agree with their GCSE results, what can they do?

A pupil who does not agree with their grade(s) must first ask their school (exam centre) to check whether an administrative or procedural error had been made.

Where an exam centre does not believe an error had been made, a pupil can ask the centre to appeal to the exam board on their behalf.

The centre will submit the pupil's appeal to the exam board and provide the evidence on which its judgement had been made.

All queries should be referred to the Academy Examinations Officer – Ms R. Hayward – 01702 524341
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