

17 March 2021

Dear Parents and Students

Update for those completing exam courses in Summer 2021

Northfleet Technology College
Colyer Road
Northfleet
Kent DA11 8BG

Tel: 01474 533802
Fax: 01474 536122
Email: office@ntc.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.ntc.kent.sch.uk

Head: Jane Partridge

I am writing to share current information about the process for awarding grades this year, and how we plan to support students through this challenging and uncertain time. We are still waiting for the specific details, due to be published by the end of March by the exam boards.

The principle for award grades is outlined below:

- Subject teams (not individual teachers) will agree the grade based on the evidence of work a student has produced (it must be evidenced that it is the student's own work).
- NTC is planning robust internal and external moderation with local schools to ensure the process is accuracy and fair and not decided by an individual teacher.
- The grade must be based on evidence and not a prediction.
- To make sure no one is disadvantaged from the impact of COVID, the evidence will be taken from a range of work (not just mock or formal exams) and will be made on the topics taught to far.
- The process for all qualifications will be very similar with one grade for the whole qualification rather than a summary of unit grades.
- Exam boards will review the process to ensure it meets expectations, and undertake spot checks of the evidence used to justify the grades.

Based on the information currently known, NTC is planning to take a 3-step approach to make sure everyone achieves the grades they deserve.

These steps are:

1. Publish an initial **'working at'** grade in each subject based on the evidence for work to date.
2. Provide time for **discussion** with key staff around the next steps students need to take.
3. Make opportunities for students to **produce further evidence** that meets exam board requirements.

**The key message is this evidence gathering process is only just beginning.
What students produce in the weeks ahead can make all the difference to their final grade.**

All students completing exam courses will receive a **'Working At' Grade Report** by Monday, 29 March. This report will show the current baseline grade, based on work to date, in each of the subjects studied. This is not a predicted final grade, and in some cases maybe significantly lower, but it is designed to start a conversation about what further evidence is needed to reach the grade desired. Teachers will be discussing in class what students need to do next to build further evidence. The grade report will include contact details for the relevant subject Progress Manager who can respond to any urgent questions you may have.

After Easter there will be an opportunity for parents to discuss how they can support their child with their **Learning Coach**. These teachers will work with subject staff and students so they can plan their time effectively in building any evidence they need. By waiting until after Easter, it also means these discussions can be informed by the final details provided by the exam boards.

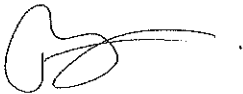
We anticipate all evidence will need to be produced no later than the end of Term 5 (Friday, 28 May) to ensure time for it to be moderated. After this point teachers will not be able to share the grade awarded with anyone other than the exam board. Any pressure to divulge or alter such grades could be classed as malpractice.

Results days will be earlier than usual this year, with Y13/14 results published on Tuesday, 10 August and Y11 results published on Thursday, 12 August.

It has been a challenging year for all, but it has also been an inspiration to see the resilience and determination our students have shown. I have every confidence each will go this final mile to achieve their full potential.

I will endeavour to keep you updated in the weeks ahead as further details are finalised by the exam boards, but for now I wish you all continued good health as we move into brighter months ahead.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jon Morgan', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jon Morgan
Deputy Headteacher