

Principal: Delia Smith OBE

Tuesday 20th April 2021



Dear Parents/Carers/Students of Year 11 and Year 13

Teacher Assessed Grades and Evidence Assessments May 2021

A key part of the evidence needed before we can arrive at teacher assessed grades will be derived from the upcoming evidence assessments which start on:

Tuesday 4th May

Every student has now received the timetable for these assessments, that take place over three weeks, and end on:

Friday 21st May

These assessments are extremely important as they:

- Give students the opportunity to show what they know, understand and can do, in content that has not yet been assessed.
- Give an opportunity for students to show improvement, to validate or replace existing evidence.
- Support consistent and objective judgements between teachers as they follow agreed mark schemes provided by the exam boards.

The evidence assessments will be compiled using materials drawn from a variety of exam questions, that can be adapted, and from a range of papers produced by the exam boards over at least three years. We will compile our assessments based on the topics that have been taught and not on those discounted. All students in Year 11 and 13 have been advised of the topics these assessments will cover.

They have also been advised of any other evidence that we will take into account before determining a grade.

If a student fails to attend any evidence assessments in this period, they will not be able to resit them and any grade will depend on previous reliable evidence that we have, for example, the 'mock' assessments held in November/December 2020. These, unfortunately, may not reflect the student's current knowledge. However, we cannot determine any grade without evidence and the exam boards have made clear that **predictions or target grades are not evidence.**



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The overall process of awarding grades, the evidence used to do this, and the quality assurance process was discussed at length with parents/students at the online meeting and question and answer session on:

Monday 19th April at 6.00pm

If you were unable to attend this meeting you can access the information discussed on the Ark Academy website at: www.arkacademy.org

We will also attempt to respond to frequently asked questions (FAQs) that come from this meeting and likewise post them on our website.

I hope this information and particularly the considerable quality assurance process that we will be undertaking, both internally within Ark Academy, then externally undertaken by Ark Schools and finally the checks and balances required by the exam boards, give you and your child the confidence that Teacher Assessed Grades and the overall Centre Assessed Grades are fair, objective and valid.

If you have any further queries that are not answered by the FAQ's please contact Ms Ozeke (e.ozeke@arkacademy.org) Vice Principal for Data and Assessments or Ms Timothy (a.timothy@arkacademy.org) Examinations Officer at Ark Academy.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Delia Smith', written in a cursive style.

Delia Smith
Principal