Carmel: Teacher assessed grade process 2021 (parents)

You will no doubt be aware from recent DfE announcements that your son/daughter’s A, AS, Applied General, GCSE grades this year will be decided by teachers.

Please be assured that the teacher assessed grades process at Carmel for summer 2021 is as you would expect an extremely robust and fully quality assured process.

Departments and senior leaders have determined a broad range of historical and more recent sources of evidence to use to inform final teacher assessed grades for students.

This presents differently for each department, but can include:

- Student work in response to materials provided by the examination board i.e. past papers, groups of questions, sample papers
- Non-exam assessment (coursework)
- Student work produced in centre-devised tasks that reflect the specification and follow the same format as exam board materials and marked in a way that reflects exam board mark schemes. This can include substantial class or homework (including those that took place during remote learning), internal tests or mock exams sat over the course of study.
- Records of a student’s capability or performance over the course of study in performance-based subjects i.e. PE; or other work i.e. oral recordings in languages
- Records of each student’s progress and performance over the course of study
- Exam boards will produce a range of support materials which can be used immediately after publication. The use of these support materials is not compulsory.

These sources of evidence, in conjunction with Carmel’s Monitoring and Assessment Progress points (MAPPs) across the whole of a student’s linear programme of study, in addition to three Reviews, will inform the determination of the final teacher assessed grade for 2021.

Your son/daughter has been informed of the sources of evidence to be used in informing their teacher assessed grade.

The parent/student consultation event on April 21st via SchoolCloud presents as an opportunity to discuss your son/daughter’s current progress with respect to their likely final teacher assessed grade. Please be aware, however, that this will be a discussion about current progress, and not a final outcome, as students will still have opportunities to improve / reinforce or, indeed, diminish their final grade in upcoming work.

It is therefore really important to encourage hard work in the remaining weeks at college.

It is important to note that final teacher assessed grades must remain confidential as they subject to both internal and external quality assurance processes, and that, as examination boards continue to publish additional detail, marginal changes may occur.
Additional information regarding teacher assessed grades this summer will be posted on our website.

**Frequently asked questions**

**What if I am ill when a future assessment is taking place?**

Students will need to provide a doctor’s note as proof that they were too ill to take an assessment. It might be possible to reschedule the assessment. Please remember that a broad range of evidence will inform any final grade and not one single piece of work.

**What if my son/daughter needs to isolate when future assessments are taking place?**

It may be possible for a student to sit the assessment later when they are back in college, or complete it at home.

**My son/daughter has access arrangements (extra time, a reader/scribe, etc). Will these be provided in the assessments?**

Yes. Teachers know about this and will make sure that your son/daughter is provided with what is needed for upcoming assessments. If your son/daughter has any concerns here, they should speak to their teacher.

**What processes are in place to ensure my son’s/daughter’s grade is accurate?**

1. Teachers have, and will, assess against examination board standards.
2. Departments will submit grades which will be internally quality assured by the college. This internal quality assurance process will have to be signed off by the exam board to ensure it is rigorous and in line with national standards.
3. Our TAGs will be quality assured externally by the exam boards, which may include random sampling of the evidence we have used to generate these.
4. If the exam boards are confident in our submitted results, they will award the final grades.
5. If you do not think that your son/daughter’s results are accurate, there is a right to appeal.

**Will my son/daughter’s grade be decided by an algorithm?**

No, unlike last year, grades will not be changed by a formula. The internal and external quality assurance measures will all be done by humans, not an algorithm.

**Can students and parents/guardians make the case for why a student should get a higher grade?**

Our teachers are using a broad range of evidence and their professional expertise to assess your son/daughter on the content that they have been taught. Teachers are unable to submit higher grades unless they have the evidence that your son/daughter has consistently worked at this level. If teachers submit higher grades without evidence, they are committing exam malpractice.
If students or parents/guardians are found to be putting teachers or leaders under undue pressure to increase grades, then this matter will be referred to the exam boards and an investigation into malpractice may ensue. This may result in a certificate being removed entirely if malpractice is deemed to have taken place.

**Can grades be discussed with teachers?**

We are not allowed to disclose the final submitted grade we give to the exam board. Students should not attempt to second-guess the grade submitted, as teachers will be using a range of evidence to inform their final judgement. Teachers must not be pressured to reveal the grades they are submitting, or to increase the grades, as doing so may be considered exam malpractice.

**What about subjects with coursework?**

As outlined, if your son/daughter’s subject includes NEA (non-examined assessment, otherwise known as coursework), this will contribute to the TAG. The percentage shown below is the amount that it will contribute (and is identical to the amount it would normally contribute to the A level grade).

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*Please refer to department*

For Applied General programmes, much of the evidence that will be used to inform teacher assessed grades will be based on completed, or partially completed, coursework/internal assessments. Where the Applied General qualification incorporates examined units in addition to coursework elements, the sources of evidence used here to inform teacher assessed grades should follow the same process as those for GCSE, A and AS level qualifications.