



Principal: Dr Katharine Vincent

Monday 8th February 2021

Dear parent/carer,

As you will be aware, examinations are not going ahead for students who are completing GCSE, A-level and technical/vocational qualifications this summer, owing to the pandemic. Instead, the school will recommend to exam boards the grades that students should be awarded, known as 'teacher assessed grades'. These grades will be based on students' performance in assessments set by the school, focusing on content that they have been taught during the course of their studies.

Please find below guidance about how Mulberry UTC will award teacher assessed grades in summer 2021.

How will grades be awarded to students this summer?

Students will receive grades determined by their teachers that reflect their ability and enable them to progress to further education, training, or employment. The grades will be based on content students have been taught throughout the course, including content they will cover in the spring and summer term. It is therefore extremely important that students continue to work hard up to the end of their courses.

How will the school be sure that the grades awarded to students are accurate?

Grades are being determined by teachers, who know their students best. Teachers will use a wide range of evidence when recommending grades, to ensure they are fair. Meanwhile, exam boards will issue grade descriptors to ensure grades are consistent across schools. In addition, a rigorous internal and external quality assurance process will be in place.

What evidence will teachers use to determine students' grades?

Teachers will use a wide range of evidence to inform the grades they give to students. This will include:

- Classwork
- Homework
- Coursework and assignments
- Previous mock examination results
- Internal assessments

When will the grading take place?

The school is required to submit students' grades to exam boards by Friday 18th June 2021. Results days will take place on Tuesday 10th August 2021 for Year 13 students and Thursday 12th August 2021 for Year 11 students, Year 12 Level 2 students and Year 13 GCSE retake students.



Can teachers discuss grades with students?

Teachers may discuss with students the evidence they are using to inform their judgements about students' grades, including marked or graded pieces of work. They are not, however, permitted to tell students their final submitted grades.

Students should not attempt to second-guess the grades that have been submitted, as teachers will be using a range of evidence to inform their final judgements. Students and parents/carers must not pressure teachers to reveal the grades they are submitting, or to increase their grades. If this does happen, it may be considered exam malpractice, which would need to be reported to the exam board.

What can students do if they disagree with their grades?

Students will have the right to appeal their grades after they receive them in August. If students believe their grades are wrong, they can ask the school to check for errors in the submission process. If, after this checking process is complete, the student still believes their grades are wrong, the school can submit an appeal to the exam board on their behalf. It is important to remember that grades can go up or down as a result of an appeal.

What can students do if they are unhappy with their grades, or with the outcome of an appeal?

If students wish to improve their grades following an appeal, they will be able to sit an exam in Autumn 2021.

What will students do in school now (from 8th March onwards)?

Students will continue to study for their qualifications, to ensure that they leave school with the relevant knowledge and skills. In technical and vocational qualifications, students will predominantly work on coursework units. In GCSE & A-level qualifications, teachers will mainly focus on re-visiting and consolidating students' learning, and reinforcing students' knowledge of content that has already been covered during the course.

How will Academic Review Day on Wednesday 24th March support students?

Academic Review Day will support students and parents to understand students' current grades and the grades they are predicted to achieve at the end of the year. Academic Review Day is also an opportunity for teachers to advise students about what they can do during the next three months to support their learning and achieve the best possible grade at the end of the course.



What are 'Currently Working At' and 'Currently Predicted' grades?

The 'Currently Working At' grade reflects a teacher's professional judgement about students' current performance in a particular course. This grade is based on a wide range of evidence including formative and summative assessments.

In academic subjects, the 'Currently Working At' grade is determined by the grades students have achieved in end of unit assessments, mock examinations and recent internal assessments, as well as students' subject knowledge and understanding as demonstrated in classwork and homework assignments.

In technical and vocational subjects, the 'Currently Working At' grade is determined by students' achievements in external unit exams and coursework, as well as students' level of subject knowledge and understanding as demonstrated in classwork and homework assignments.

Students 'Currently Predicted' grades reflect the grades that teachers believe students will achieve at the end of the year if they continue to work hard and make progress in the subject. These grades are determined by the level of knowledge, skills and understanding which students are currently able to demonstrate in a subject, and the level at which teachers believe students will be able to perform by the end of the course. These 'Currently Predicted' grades take into account the work that students have completed while working at home, and may therefore change when students return to the building.

The 'Currently Predicted' grades given to students in March will not determine students' final grades at the end of the year. They will, however, give students and parents an indication of the grades which teachers believe students are most likely to achieve if they continue working at the current pace.

Where can I find out more information and ask questions?

An information session for parents about the process of awarding grades will be held on Tuesday 16th March between 4-4.30pm. Please follow the link below to join

<https://zoom.us/j/91294122755?pwd=dkZFczNXy1o4WkZQci95QzJmQmFldz09>.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Ms R Christofides
Assistant Principal

Mulberry UTC
Where learning works



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