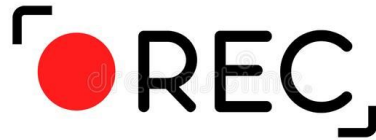


Achieving Qualifications 2021

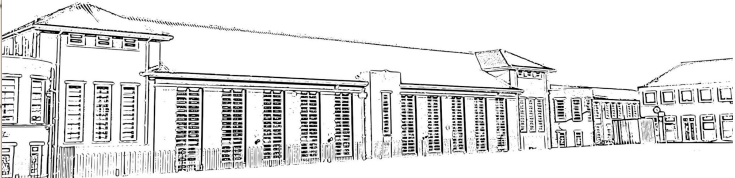
Y11, Y12 & Y13 Assembly, 15th March 2021



This assembly is being recorded.



If you have any questions during this assembly, your Tutor can use the chat or ask at the end using the raise hands function.
Thank you



NO EXAMS & LOST LEARNING: ACHIEVING QUALIFICATIONS 2021

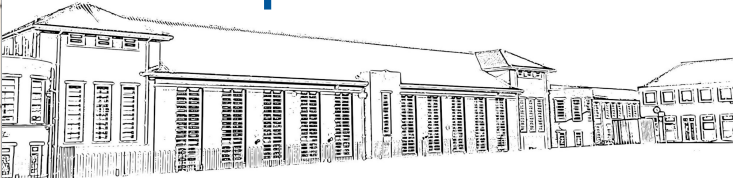


What's been decided?

- In November, Welsh Government announced that exams would be cancelled in 2021
- Schools (known as centres) would 'determine grades'

Is this the same as last year?

- No: last year schools *predicted* the grades (assumed what a student would have achieved if they had sat their exams). This year evidence is needed to prove the grades from work completed from the start of your course until this June

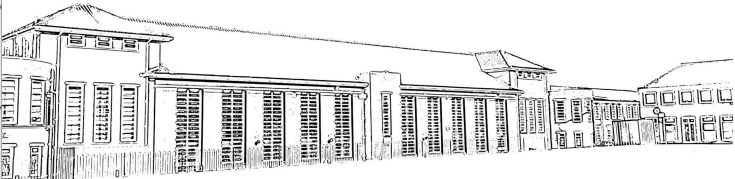


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What's evidence can be used?

- There are lots of things that can be used as evidence:
 - Assessments being completed between now and June
 - Work completed at home during Distance Learning (as long as it is verified: proved to be the '*learners own work*')
 - Controlled assessments (known as Non Examined Assessments)
 - Classwork
 - Past mock exams and subject tests



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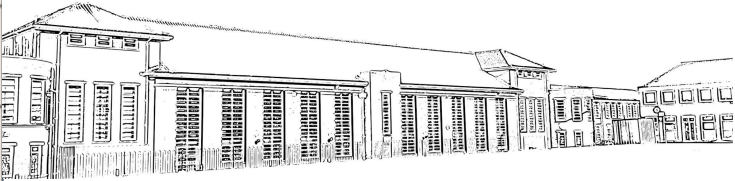


What's evidence can be used?

What about work completed before the pandemic?

(when I didn't know it would be used to determine my grade)

- This can be used to support the determined grade
- *'Using evidence in a positive way'*

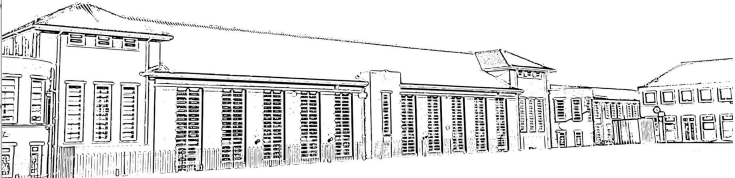


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Has my course been changed?

- Yes! All GCSEs, A Levels and AS Levels have had changes to their specs (specifications - the list that determines what must be covered in class and exams)
- To make up for all the lost learning weeks (22 in the last 12 months), all qualifications have removed elements of their courses: your teachers will let you know for each subject
- Evidence is needed from each of the remaining elements wherever possible

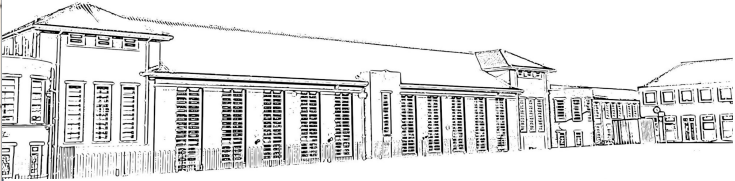


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I do BTECs: is it the same?

- It is very similar but these are called TAGs - Teacher Assessed Grades
- There have been some changes to the course too (like not having to cover all the set units): your teacher will let you know
- If your BTEC has an exam element, your teacher will give a TAG for this too
- Your aim in BTEC lessons is to complete the remaining units before you leave to the best of your ability



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What are all the acronyms?

- **CDGs: Centre Determined Grades**
- **PCDGS: Provisional CDGs: until you get your 'results' in August, all CDGs are provisional**
- **TAGs: Teacher Assessed Grades**
- **CWAGs: Current Working At Grades - you will see these in your reports**
- **NEAs: Non Examined Assessments (Controlled Assessments / coursework)**
- **AOs: Assessment Objectives - these are the areas you have to cover in your courses**



How much time do we have in school?

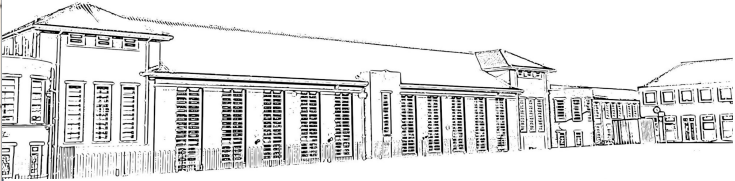
- Enough! We have nine teaching weeks in school from now until the Whitsun Break (Summer Half Term) at the end of May

What if we are sent home to isolate again?

- We keep going! Our online learning can still count as evidence

What if we don't finish the course in time?

- We only have to gather evidence from what we can and do cover

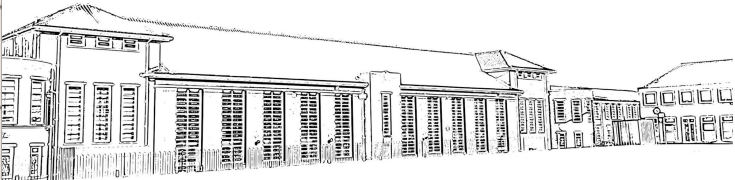


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What will be happening in lessons?

- Lessons will be as normal (with all the H&S regulations too)
- Your teachers will continue covering the course and then set you assessments along the way: these may be tests, assignments and home learning. You may get feedback but not told the results
- If you are entitled to an exam concession (eg. extra time) you will be given this: your teacher will liaise with Learning Support
- Do make sure you fully focus and give your best: like in an exam, you won't get second chances at these assessments



NO EXAMS & LOST LEARNING: ACHIEVING QUALIFICATIONS 2021



How are staff ensuring marking is fair?

- Everything will be quality assured: we have to make sure that your grades are fair and accurate
- Staff are having support meetings and training
- We use exam board material wherever possible
- When marking your work: we aim to avoid teacher bias by using approaches such as anonymous marking and swapping papers
- Your Tutors will share your exam numbers with you to help anonymous marking: make a note of these
- All work will be moderated by HoDs and members of LT



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What should I be aiming to achieve?

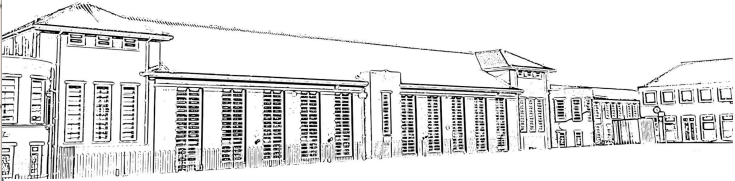
- Your best!
- All students have target grades for each subject: you will find these on your reports
- Target grades are aspirational. Typically students achieve their target or one grade lower - that's a great result!
- This is not about everyone getting A*s or Distinctions. It's about



St Julian's
All students
gain their
best grades
in
every subject.

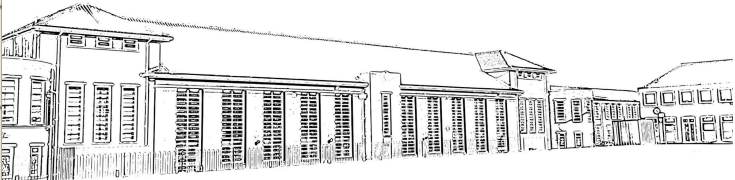
KS4 & 5
Assembly

NO EXAMS & LOST LEARNING: ACHIEVING QUALIFICATIONS 2021



Do I need to panic???

- Not at all! We've got this!
- It will be a stressful time: but it would have been stressful if we were preparing for exams too - that's just how it is :(
- We will ensure your wellbeing is fully supported too: we have lots of sessions planned in our tutorial programme
- If you are feeling anxious and like you cannot cope - let us know there are lots of people who can help

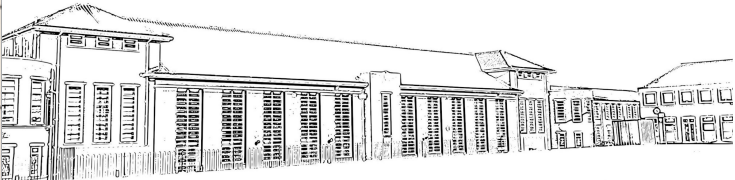


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What happens with 'results'?

- All Newport Schools are in the process of agreeing a timeline
- We are proposing these dates (agreed dates coming soon):
 - 15th March - 28th May: students completing assessments, teachers gathering evidence, QA and moderation
 - 29th May - 6th June: Whitsun Break
 - 7th - 10th June (Mon. - Thurs.): teachers input your PCDGs into SIMS
 - 14th - 17th June: all PCDGs are checked by HoDs and confirmed by Mr Curtis
 - 18th June (Fri.): PCDGs shared with students
- With your final grades, you will most likely get an explanation explaining how these were determined



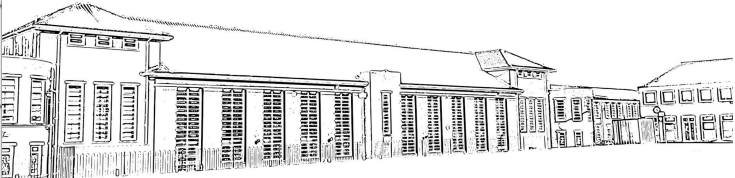
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What happens with 'results'?

What if I don't agree with my PCDGs?

- If you feel you have good reason that your PCDG is unfair or inaccurate, you can request a 'Review'. The proposed dates are:
 - 18th June (Fri.): PCDGs shared with students; Review window opens
 - 25th June (Fri.): Review window closes; all Reviews processed by Tues. 29th June
 - 30th June (Wed.): submission of CDGs to WJEC (deadline Fri. 2nd July)
- Your review will be considered by Miss Hook and the HoD: Mr Curtis (as Head of Centre) will agree the final grade
- Your PCDG could remain the same or be raised or lowered



NO EXAMS & LOST LEARNING: ACHIEVING QUALIFICATIONS 2021



What happens next?

- You will receive your final results in August:
 - 10th - Post 16: A Levels & AS Levels, BTEC Level 3
 - 12th - Year 11 (& Y10): GCSEs; BTECs and Entry Levels
- If you are still unhappy with your final CDGs, you can appeal to the WJEC and then Qualifications Wales
- For Y11 and Y12 students, we will support you with your next Pathway: staying at St Julian's, going to another school or college or starting work
- For Y13 students, we will support you with UCAS and universities

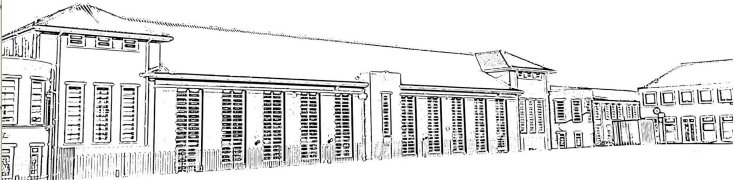


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What has the school got to do?

- To make sure all grades are fair and all processes are robust, the school has to produce:
 - A Centre Policy: this will be shared with you soon
 - Subject Assessment Plans for every qualification
 - Decision Making Records which show the rationale for each grade
 - Head of Centre Declaration when submitting PCDGs
 - Reviews Process



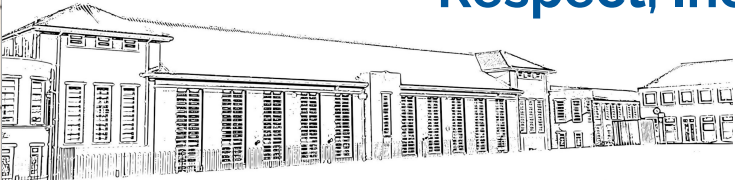
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Is there anything else I need to know?

- That's pretty much it: we will share updates with you
- Ask us at any time if you are unsure about anything (but don't ask about your final PCDG!)
- Always know this (and when we say 'we' its students and staff):
 - We are all in this together
 - We all want you to achieve your best grades
 - We all need to work hard for next few months
 - We will all feel anxious but that's ok
 - We will get through this with:

Respect, Inclusion, Collaboration and Achievement



NO EXAMS & LOST LEARNING: ACHIEVING QUALIFICATIONS 2021



Achieving Qualifications 2021

Y11, Y12 & Y13 Assembly

