

# Email to students, parents and carers



Regarding Summer Assessment arrangements for students receiving a qualification in summer 2021

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## FOR STUDENTS COMPLETING A QUALIFICATION IN SUMMER 2021

Dear students, parents and carers,

Since the publication of the Department for Education / Ofqual summer assessment decision papers we have been consulting with Collyer's teaching staff on how best to apply the guidance to our students. It is vital that our current students receive the same level of outstanding achievement as students in previous years that rewards their exceptionally hard work during what has been a challenging year. I would like to outline the plans for the evidence base that will be used by teachers to determine Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) for GCSE and A-Level students, and Qualification-level Teacher Assessed Grades (QTAGs) for students following vocational and technical qualifications including BTECs. I would also like to outline the remaining assessments that students will complete after the Easter holidays.

### TAG / QTAG evidence base

In my email of 05.03.21 ([here](#)), I outlined the DfE guidance surrounding the award of grades in summer 2021 and the evidence base that teachers should use to determine TAGs and QTAGs. A summary of this guidance follows as a reminder:

- teaching and **assessment** should continue.
- students will only be assessed on the material that they have covered.
- teachers will consider a range of evidence to award TAGs/QTAGs.
- teachers may consider evidence from throughout the course but will make their final judgements towards the end of the course.
- the evidence teachers will consider may include class tests, mock exams, homework and coursework that follows the format of work that would normally be assessed internally or externally.
- coursework (Non-Examined Assessment) will comprise approximately the same proportion of the final grade as in normal times.
- there will be no algorithm applied by exam boards to TAGs submitted by teachers.
- there will be an appeal process if students do not agree with their TAG.
- there will be an Autumn sitting for exams.

Collyer's Heads of Subject are working with their departments to agree an evidence base that is fair and provides the best possible grades for every student. In the week beginning the 26<sup>th</sup> of April each subject will publish their evidence base to students. This will ensure students are fully aware of the pieces of work on which their TAG / QTAG is based.

### Summer assessments

Whilst we still await further guidance from exam boards, the DfE makes clear that assessment should continue until the end of our courses. This is to allow our students most current performance to be factored into the determination of TAGs / QTAGs. Subjects will continue to assess students after the Easter holiday according to the following agreed guidance agreed by Collyer's teaching staff:

- a total of between 2.5 and 3.5 hours of assessment per subject held in-class, following the normal timetable between Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April and Friday 14<sup>th</sup> of May.
- each subject will use this assessment time as best suits to assessment needs of their course and students. Some subjects will opt for a series of 30-minute assessments, others will opt for fewer, longer assessments.
- to ensure that work completed during assessments is the students own, assessments will be sat in silence.
- depending upon the assessment needs of the course, some subjects will elect to allocate up to 1 hour of the 2.5-3.5 total assessment time to a synchronous assessment held in the w/b 17<sup>th</sup> May.
- synchronous assessments involve all students in a subject's cohort sitting the assessment at the same time in one of the college's larger spaces. Synchronous assessments suit subjects with multiple choice or shorter answer assessment questions.
- assessments will follow the normal format of assessment in each subject and be marked according to exam board mark-schemes where possible.
- **students will be made aware of the topics / areas of study covered in each assessment during the w/b 29<sup>th</sup> March.** This will allow students to focus their preparations for assessment and begin this process over the Easter break.
- all students with Exam Access Arrangements (EAA) e.g., 25% extra time, reader, scribe etc. will receive their entitlement for these assessments.
- students following double or triple qualifications will complete 2x and 3x the assessment detailed above.

Exceptions to the above:

- some BTEC subjects will simply continue with their current assignment work.
- Art and Design subject TAGs/QTAGs will be based entirely on each student's portfolio work.

It is important that students seize the opportunity to demonstrate their current performance in these summer assessments and prepare accordingly. TAGs / QTAGs will be determined by considering a broad and fair evidence base including performance in these summer assessments.

### **Progress Review 3 grades (PR3)**

Students will receive their PR3 grades this coming Monday (22<sup>nd</sup> March). PR3 grades are based upon evidence currently held on each student and therefore their performance at this point in time. Performance between now and the end of their courses, including the summer assessments, may result in a higher or lower TAG / QTAG grade than PR3 grade being awarded.

I fully appreciate and sympathise that students are keen to receive an indication of the final grades that they are likely to receive this summer, and indeed PR3 does provide a direction of travel. But I do request that students refrain from interrogating their teachers during this final stage of their course. If students can place their focus on performing outstandingly in the remainder of their assessments, teachers will be able to place their energies on the pin-sharp award of TAGs / QTAGs.

May I congratulate all students for their impressive commitment to their studies this past year and wish them well for the final weeks of their courses at Collyer's and in their futures.

Kind regards,

Rob Hussey  
Vice Principal, Curriculum

## Key Dates

<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Event</b>
w/b Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	Summer assessment details issued by each subject to students.
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> April – Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	In-class summer assessment of between 2.5 – 3.5 hours in total.
w/b Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Details of the evidence base used to determine TAGs/QTAGs issued by each subject to students.
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	2A students' courses end. Students effectively leave on this date unless sitting a Synchronous Assessment. There will be no lessons for 2A students beyond the 14 <sup>th</sup> of May.
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> May – Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Synchronous Assessments for students in some subjects. Students will only attend college for these assessments. Dates and times to be confirmed after Easter.
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	All 2A students have completed their summer assessment and effectively leave college.
Tuesday August 10 <sup>th</sup>	Results released.