

16 March 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian

We are delighted that our exam students are returning to face to face teaching on Monday 22nd March and are now in a position to outline our approach to the Alternative Awarding Process. It has been a very difficult time for them, and I have no doubt that both you and your son/daughter feel anxious about the weeks ahead, I would firstly encourage them not to panic unduly about the situation, the College will do everything to ensure that no student is disadvantaged by the process being put in place to determine grades and we will aim to reduce the anxiety which they may be experiencing.

Alternative Awarding Arrangements- GCSE AS and A2.

The alternative awarding arrangements involves Centre Determined Grades based on evidence of students work. On Friday 5th of March CCEA sent into schools Head of Centre Guidance as to how these grades were to be derived to ensure that outcomes are fair and consistent.

Each Centre Determined Grade must be a **realistic evidence-based judgement** of the standard at which the student is performing. The grade will be determined by consideration of a range of evidence by each subject- Mid-term assessments, Christmas exams, Class tests, work completed during lockdown and CCEA Assessment Resources.

CCEA will be providing assessment resources and are highly recommending that centres should use the assessments under high controlled conditions. These assessments will be used with other previous assessments as part of the required evidence. Teachers will inform students which evidence will be used. The students may also be completing some class tests prior to Easter.

CCEA in its guidance refers to the level of control with respect to assessments and considers a high control assessment as being one which will ensure the validity and authenticity of the assessment.

The College proposes to complete these assessments as part of our evidence gathering process the assessment process and will schedule these after the Easter Holiday. The students will be directed prior to going on holiday what work they will need to revise.

AS and A2 assessments will take place from the **19th to 30th April** with GCSE assessments scheduled for **4th to the 14th May** (these are provisional dates and may change slightly).

By completing the assessments at a set time, we can ensure equity between the different classes and we can control the number of assessments which the students will be completing in one day. Students will also have time prior to the assessment period to meet with their teachers to go over work covered during lockdown and to get advice and support. The students will not be overwhelmed by assessments but rather any assessment material will be carefully managed and led by focused teaching.

We will not be in a position to give you any detail on information from the students' performance in these assessments. A period of moderation and quality assurance both internally and externally must be completed before any grade can be awarded. CCEA have stipulated that the CDG will not be available until results are published.

As part of the process the College must draw up a Centre Determined Grades Policy which I will share with you in due course.

We look forward to the students returning on Monday and we will take some time to allow them to settle back into school and for teachers to begin focusing on the work that will be assessed after Easter. Where any class tests are being carried out during this period, the student will be informed well in advance and guided clearly on what is required.

It is envisaged that year 14 students will finish assessments around Friday 30th April with year 12 students finishing assessments around the 14th May. These are only provisional dates at this stage. Work for other examinations including BTEC qualifications may continue after these dates. These dates will be confirmed when we have received complete guidance. Please note that we have yet to receive information from the English Exam boards which will affect English Literature and Theatre Studies AS and A2 students.

Year 13 students will continue to come to class after the assessment period so that they can complete AS courses which will enable them to progress with A2 work.

These are very difficult and challenging times, but I have no doubt that both Loreto students and teaching staff will rise to the challenge in the weeks ahead. We will endeavour to minimise the stress and anxiety which the students face whilst ensuring that all pupils receive the grade which they deserve as evidenced by their work.

Yours Sincerely

Miss B Toner

Principal