

## GCSEs and Vocational Qualifications 2021

Welcome to the April edition of the KS4 Bulletin. In this newsletter we aim to provide you with the information you need in the run up to the end of your child's time at Poltair. Following, is a series of frequently asked questions that hopefully have addressed all your queries and concerns. As ever, if we have not answered your question then please do email and let us know.—Mrs Kellow.

### **How will you grade the students this year?**

The guidance is clear that we need to ensure that students have the opportunity to show the full breadth of their knowledge and understanding in each subject based on what they have been taught. It is important that grades represent a holistic, objective judgement based on evidence of each student's performance in each subject.

All subjects have agreed the evidence that will be used to determine the grades. We have ensured that the evidence being used covers all assessment objectives and a significant proportion of the specification of each subject, as well as reflecting the content taught.

Before we mark each piece of evidence, teachers will be moderated to ensure the marking is consistent and accurate. We will be anonymising the evidence by asking students to use candidate number rather than their names. The students will be informed of the marks/grade of each piece of evidence being used, but will not be told their final grade.

Once all evidence is collected we will collate and generate a holistic grade. After further internal moderation, and using our CELT secondary partners to further quality assure, we will enter the determined grade.

Please note—a student will not have a say in the evidence used to determine a grade.

### **How can we be assured that the grades are accurate and reflect my child's ability?**

Firstly, all Year 11 teachers are working incredibly hard to ensure they fully understand the guidance, processes and policies from JCQ that need to be followed this year. They are also all completing training from the exam boards on how to mark accurately, and completing modules on how to remove unconscious bias and ensure equality and diversity.

Before any evidence is marked all staff are moderated so their marking is accurate. This is then checked against the exam board grade descriptors and exemplification work provided.

If your child has special considerations, such as exam concessions these will be applied for all assessments.

For every piece of evidence your child will be informed of their grade so they will have a clear idea of how they are performing in each subject area.

### **What do I do if I believe my child has had an event or issue that has had a material effect on how they have performed?**

There are certain students that we are aware of that have mitigating circumstances that need to be taken into consideration when determining their grade. If you believe there is mitigating circumstances which warrant special consideration it must be raised as soon as possible—before assessments and prior to the 28th May. Please email [vwaters@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:vwaters@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk)

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## **How can I appeal my child's grade?**

You can not appeal on behalf of your child, any appeal must come from the student.

There are four grounds to appeal:

- 1) We make an administrative error
- 2) We do not apply a procedure correctly
- 3) The exam board makes an administrative error
- 4) We make an unreasonable exercise of academic judgement in the choice of evidence from which to determine the grade and/or the determination of the grade from the evidence

Further details of the appeals process will be given as soon as final guidance has been released.

## **How can I help my child follow the rules and regulations and not be accused of malpractice?**

Any of the following incidences will result in us reporting to the exam board a case of malpractice. Please do discuss with your child so they are fully aware.

- Students might attempt to gain an unfair advantage by, for example, submitting fabricated evidence or plagiarised work.
- It is possible that students may attempt to influence their teachers' judgement about their grades.
- Students, or individuals acting on behalf of a student, such as parents/cares, might also try to influence grade decisions by applying pressure to centres or their staff.

We will be asking all students to complete a declaration that all evidence collected is their own work.

For full details on the plans for awarding GCSEs and VTQ this summer please read the guidance <https://www.jcq.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/JCQ-Guidance-for-Students-and-Parents-on-Summer-2021.pdf>



Please see detailed lists of the evidence planned to be used on the following pages...

# Subject evidence plans

Subject	What evidence will be used from Year 10 (including remote learning)?	What evidence will be used from Year 11 (including remote learning)?	Will there be any coursework or NEA to complete?	Will there be any internal exams to complete?
<b>Maths</b>	<b>Individual classes</b> Unit test results	<b>Whole Cohort</b> November PPE Mathswatch remote learning records  <b>Individual classes</b> Unit test results	N/A	<b>Assessment 2</b> Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> April Higher PLC Foundation PLC <b>Assessment 3</b> Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May Higher PLC Foundation PLC <b>Assessment 4</b> Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> May Foundation PLC Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> May Higher PLC
<b>English Language</b>	None – unless individual assessments are required to support any gaps due to attendance issues.	Year 11 PPE Paper 1 Year 11 Scaffolded Improvement – Paper 1 Year 11 Independent Paper 1 Year 11 Writing of a Speech Paper 2 Section B evidence Potential use of Baseline Paper October for additional evidence if supportive.	Speaking and Listening NEA being submitted	Paper 1 completed before Easter Paper 2 writing assessment in class.
<b>English Literature</b>	None – unless individual assessments are required to support any gaps with attendance issues.	Year 11 PPE: Assessment on Macbeth and Comparison of poetry Macbeth Scaffolded Response and Independent Response AIC Scaffolded Response Independent Response Poetry Comparison Scaffolded and Independent Response.	N/A	The internal assessments will be completed in lessons – the assessments will run this half term starting with Macbeth, moving onto AIC and then onto Poetry.
<b>Science</b>	<b>Individual classes</b> Exam papers	<b>Whole Cohort</b>  November PPE Spring PPE 6 papers Tassomai data based on accuracy.	N/A	<b>Assessment 1</b> Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March paper 2 Biology Trilogy Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March paper 2 Chemistry separate Science <b>Assessment 2</b> Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April paper 2 Chemistry Trilogy Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March paper 2 Biology separate Science <b>Assessment 3</b> Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April paper 2 Physics Trilogy Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April paper 2 Physics Separate Science <b>Assessment 4</b> Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May paper 1 Biology Trilogy Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April paper 1 Chemistry Separate Science <b>Assessment 5</b> Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> May paper 1 Chemistry Trilogy Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> May paper 1 Biology Separate Science <b>Assessment 6</b> Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May paper 1 Physics Trilogy Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> May paper 1 Physics Separate Science

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<b>Geography</b>	End of unit assessments	PPE exam Paper 1 Paper 3 Progress checks remote learning End of unit test results	N/A	<b>Assessment 1</b> Challenges of Urban Environments <b>Assessment 2</b> Changing UK Economy <b>Assessment 3</b> <u>Living World</u> 11A/G1 – 6/5 11A/G2 – 6/5 11B/G1 – 7/5 11C/G1 – 30/4 11C/G2 – 30/4 <b>Assessment 4</b> <u>Coasts</u> 11A/G1 – 18/5 11A/G2 – 18/5 11B/G1 – 26/5 11C/G1 – 18/5 11C/G2 – 18/5 11A/G3 – 27/5 11B/G2 – 17/5 <u>Rivers</u> 11A/G3 – 11/5
<b>History</b>	<b>Individual classes</b> Exam questions	<b>Whole Cohort</b> November PPE  <b>Individual classes</b> GCSE exam questions from remote learning GCSE exam questions within lessons as timetabled	N/A	<b>19th April</b> - How useful are Sources A and B for an enquiry into the problems in performing operations on the Western Front 8 marks How could you follow up Source A to find out more about the problems in performing operations on the Western Front? 4 marks  <b>4th May</b> - "Explain why there was opposition in Germany to the Treaty of Versailles (1919). Paragraph 1: military terms Paragraph 2: territorial terms Paragraph 3: Your own knowledge." 12 marks <b>10th May</b> - How useful are Sources B and C for an enquiry into the reasons for the growth in support for the Nazi Party in the years 1929–32? 8 marks Study Interpretations 1 and 2. They give different views about the reasons for the growth in support for the Nazi Party in the years 1929-1932. What is the main difference between the views? 4 marks <b>17th May</b> - How far do you agree with Interpretation 2 about the reasons for the growth in support for the Nazi Party in the years 1929-1932? Explain your answer, using both interpretations, and your knowledge of the historical context. 16 marks + 4 SPAG
<b>MFL</b>		October assessment November PPE Writing x 4 Exampro end of topic tests x 4	N/A	Week beginning 26 <sup>th</sup> : Exampro end of topic tests x2  Week beginning 3 <sup>rd</sup> May: Writing: Home and local environment  Week beginning 17 <sup>th</sup> May: Exampro end of topic test x1
<b>Computer Science</b>	None	September PPE (Paper 2) November PPE (Paper 2) PPE exam questions set in lessons. (Paper 1)	Programming project	Every lesson, students will complete a section of a past paper 1.  There will be an opportunity to re-sit Paper 2.

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<b>DT</b>		Year 11 PPE exams	NEA Controlled assessment task to be completed.	Formal written exam based on exam board materials.
<b>Food</b>		Year 11 PPE exams	NEA Controlled assessment task to be completed.	Online assessments. 3 extended answer questions to be completed in class.
<b>Art and Photography</b>	All work completed and presented in portfolio.	All work completed and presented in portfolio.	The Art and Photography deadline is 3pm Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> May. Please ensure all work is on site by this time. This includes all sketchbooks and any other pieces of work.	N/A
<b>Btec Tech H&amp;S Care</b>	<b>Whole Cohort</b> Internal Assessments	<b>Whole Cohort</b> Learning records and internally assessed past papers	<b>Whole Cohort</b> Internal Assessments of outstanding units	<b>Whole Cohort approx dates</b> <b>Assessment 1</b> Wk beginning – 19 <sup>th</sup> April <b>Assessment 2</b> Wk beginning 26 <sup>th</sup> April <b>Assessment 3</b> Wk beginning 4 <sup>th</sup> May <b>Assessment 4</b> Wk beginning 10 <sup>th</sup> May <b>Assessment 5</b> Wk beginning 17 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Btec Sport</b>	<b>Whole Cohort</b> Internal Assessments	<b>Whole Cohort</b> Internal Assessments  External Exam platform	<b>Whole Cohort</b> Internal Assessments of outstanding unit	N/A
<b>All other vocational courses</b>	1.Any completed internally assessed assignments 2.Class work that can evidence against marking criteria and unit content	1.External completed exams (if applicable) 2.workbooks and exercise books that evidence learners reaching the required level	Teachers will be collecting evidence in order to make sure that all learners leave with no knowledge gaps and gain the correct QTAG for their ability	All exams completed will be used as part of evidence base, teachers may ask for extra internal assessment when evidence is weak.

# Year 11 Leaver's arrangements

On **Friday 28th May** Year 11 students will say their goodbyes to Poltair.

Miss Waters will be arranging a send off for them, allowing them to celebrate their time at Poltair and have the opportunity to say goodbye to the friends and staff.

Between 7th—11th June we may need to request that a student comes back to school to complete pieces of evidence for determining their GCSE grade. It will be expected that a student attends if requested and could have a detrimental impact on their final GCSE grade if they do not.

Remote learning work will be set on Share Point, this will involve activities that will help prepare the students for KS5.

The official leaving date for Year 11 is Friday 25th June.

## Results Day

**Results Day will be on Thursday 12th August.**



Each tutor group will be allotted a time to come in- to school to collect their results.

We will have members of staff that will be on hand to offer any support required.

Further details will follow next month.

## Exam queries

**If you have any questions or queries regarding the awarding of GCSE and VTQ grades this summer please email [exams@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:exams@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk)**