

Belong . . .
Believe . . .
Achieve . . .



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Headteacher: Mr J Hicks - BA (Hons) MA (Ed) NPQH

Chair of Governors: Mr G Bryce

25th March 2021

Re: Year 11 CDGs (Centre Determined Grades).

****This policy will only apply to Year 10 learners in the following area: GCSE English Literature.***

Dear Parent/Carer,

Having spent the majority of the last term following a blend of 'live lessons' and distance learning provision, we hope that the recent return to full time, school-based learning has been a very positive experience for all our Year 11 pupils.

As you will be aware, the Education Minister for Wales has announced that there will be no summer examination series for pupils taking GCSEs in 2021. This means that your child will now be awarded a Centre Determined Grade (CDG) for each of their GCSE subjects this summer. A Centre Determined Grade is the grade awarded by a school or college, as an examination centre, based upon attainment which has been demonstrated in the areas of the qualification that a student has covered.

Each CDG awarded will be a 'best-fit' judgement and must be underpinned by a range of evidence demonstrating a pupil's attainment across key themes and skills. Evidence sources (sometimes referred to as 'anchor' and 'subsidiary' assessments) may vary depending on the subject, as outlined in **Appendix 1**.

'Anchor Assessment' Window: Monday 12th April to Friday 28th May, 2021

The last two weeks have been an essential opportunity to welcome our pupils back to school. We hope they have enjoyed reconnecting with their subject teachers and benefitting from some much needed face-to-face teaching. The focus has very much been upon reintegrating pupils into classroom-based learning and preparing them for the series of assessed learning tasks (so-called '**anchor assessments**') that will take place following the Easter break.

When pupils return, on Monday 12th April, they will begin the process of completing various assessed learning tasks in many of their subjects. This will take place across a seven week period, between 12th April and 28th May, 2021. Individual 'anchor' assessments will be completed during class-time and as part of your child's timetabled lessons. Teachers will use WJEC recommended and adapted past-paper questions, but these assessment tasks will be 'chunked' and last no longer than 40 minutes at any one time. Where stipulated, access arrangements will be in place. Details of assessed learning tasks (topics/skills to be covered) will be provided by your child's subject teachers on each occasion.

Anchor assessments will be the primary source of information used to inform CDGs. However, additional, '**subsidiary evidence**' (collected from work already completed earlier in a course) may also be referenced; this will vary according to the nature and requirements of each subject but may include controlled assessments/coursework (NEAs – Non-Examination Assessments), key assessments and specific classwork tasks completed under controlled conditions.

An overview of subject-specific information sources is provided in **Appendix 2**.

Policy Outline and Appeals Process

As required, the school has, this week, submitted its CDG policy (***Centre policy on assessment and quality assurance processes for the 'Summer 2021 Alternative Arrangements'***) to the WJEC. Once ratified by the examination board, this will be published on our school website.

Please note that the policy outlines a window of opportunity for CDGs to be reviewed by the school should a pupil/parent feel a grade has been awarded incorrectly.

Following the Whitsun Half-Term break, pupils' work will be moderated and standardised as part of the school's quality assurance processes. Provisional CDGs will then be reported to pupils on **Wednesday 16th June, 2021**. The 'CDG Review' window will operate **between 17th and 22nd June, 2021**.

Results Day will take place on **Wednesday 12th August, 2021** - full details will be communicated next term.

If you have any further questions regarding these arrangements, please contact the school.

We wish you a safe and restful Easter and, as always, thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

The Senior Leadership Team,

Islwyn High School.

Appendix 1

Timeline of CDG activities and key dates:

Week	w/b	Activity	
1	12 th April, 2021	Start of Summer Term	7 week 'anchor' assessment window: 'chunked' learning tasks undertaken, marked and departmental quality assurance completed
2	19 th April, 2021		
3	26 th April, 2021		
4	3 rd May, 2021		
5	10 th May, 2021		
6	17 th May, 2021		
7	24 th May, 2021		
8	31st May, 2021	Whitsun Half Term	
9	7 th June, 2021		Standardisation, Moderation and QA processes
10	14 th June, 2021	'CDG Report' to pupils: Wed. 16th June	Review of QA processes
		'CDG Review' window: Thurs. 17th June – Tues 22nd June	
11	21 st June, 2021		
12	28 th June, 2021	CDGs submitted to WJEC by 2nd July	
	12th August, 2021	GCSE Results Day	

Appendix 2

Information which may be referenced when determining 'best-fit' CDGs:

GCSE Subject (or KS4 course*)	Information which may be used to arrive at CDGs:
Art and Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% NEA (portfolio) – to be completed
*ASDAN CoPE Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Portfolio – remaining sections to be completed by 17.5.21
Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • Key assessments
Chemistry (Triple)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • Key assessments
Computer Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • Key assessments
*Construction (IVQ Level 1 / 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEA practical work completed already • NEA reports to be completed • Key assessments
Drama	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • NEA (performance)
English Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • NEA (Speaking and Listening) - most pupils have completed already • Key assessments
English Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE completed in Year 10
Fashion and Textiles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • NEA to be completed
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • Key assessments

Health and Social Care and Child Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • NEA sections already completed; section C post-Easter • Key assessments
History	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • NEA - most pupils have completed sections already
*Hospitality and Catering (Level 1 / 2 Vocational)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • NEA practicals mostly completed • NEA documentation to be completed
ICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • NEA already ongoing; to be completed
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • Key assessments
Numeracy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • Key assessments
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • NEA performance and comparison recordings - mostly completed • Key assessments
Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • Practical moderation (one sport activity) post-Easter • NEA practicals already completed
Physics (Triple)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • Key assessments
Product Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • NEA sketchbook to be submitted w/b 12.4.21
Science Double Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • Key assessments
Skills Challenge (WBQ)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 100% NEA • Two units already submitted to WJEC • Individual Project to be completed - underway already
Sociology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • Key assessments • Key classwork
Spanish	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks (Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing) • Key assessments
Welsh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • Oral assessments • Key assessments already completed

Year 10 qualification ONLY

GCSE English Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Chunked' assessment tasks • NEA ongoing; to be completed • Key assessments
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