

Ysgol Harri Tudur Henry Tudor School

Learners Today, Leaders Tomorrow Dysgwyr Heddiw, Arweinwyr Yfory

March 24th 2021

Headteacher/Pennaeth
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Dear Parents/Guardians and Carers,

Ysgol Harri Tudur Approach to Agreeing Centre Determined Grades for pupils in Years 11, 12 and 13

As we are now in the position to have welcomed our Year 11, 12 and 13 pupils and students back, parents, staff and learners now need to consider how we will work together to generate your child's **Centre Determined Grades**.

This process has been carefully outlined for us by Qualifications Wales and the different examination bodies that we work with. The emphasis of their guidance is very much on the idea that learners cannot be disadvantaged by the time they have had away from school during the past 12 months.

The guidance asks for the process to be a fair reflection of learner ability, but one **rooted in evidence**. We therefore see the next few weeks very much as an opportunity for all learners to generate this evidence through classroom based assessments. If your child has been completing work during the course which is called an NEA (non-examined assessment), and which might historically have been called coursework, then this work will also form part of the evidence used for that subject.

Please understand that this is a very different process to last year. We cannot decide any grade based on a learners potential or what we think they could have achieved in a normal examination year. We are not being asked to make predictions like we did last year. Your child's grades can only be determined by evidence, using work that they will be asked to complete during the next few weeks and after the Easter break.

It is important to remind your child that even if they have missed more school than other children, or found learning during lockdown harder than other children, they will all have the same opportunities over the coming weeks to complete work to the best of their ability, with the guidance and support of teachers. **Their full attendance is crucial from now on as long as they are fit and well.**

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Teachers have been asked to spend lesson time consolidating learning based on the key skills for each subject and then to break certain assessments into smaller manageable sections. Learners will not be assessed on aspects of the courses that have not been covered in lessons and the number of assessments required by each subject will vary.

We want to reassure you that if your child has an ALN for which supportive examination arrangements are in place, then the school will work with staff to ensure that your child is given this same level of support for their class based assessments.

Whilst these assessments will take place in normal lessons, there will need to be a certain amount of teacher control to ensure that the work completed by each learner is purely of their own doing.

It may be possible in some subjects to use other evidence from work that the learner has completed during Year 11, provided that the work was also completed under certain controlled conditions and is of the form accepted by that examination body.

Please understand that not every piece of work that a learner has done may satisfy the requirements of the examination board and then cannot be used as evidence.

Please can you take time to discuss this process with your child and reassure them. We very much want this process to be fair and thorough but most importantly seen as positive as we can make it. It is vital that your child returns to school ready for this next step in their learning and with a positive and determined attitude to what faces them. This means being equipped with pens/pencils/rulers and a calculator.

And finally, please understand that whilst we are keen to inform you of our plans at this stage, we are still receiving guidance and information from Qualifications Wales and examination boards on a daily basis, which we will relay to you as necessary.

If you have any questions regarding this process please contact your child's Key Stage Leader. For Year 11, this is Mrs C Jones, cjones@yht.wales and for Year 12 and 13 Mr J Jones, jojones@yht.wales

We have also asked your child to ensure that they have a post -16 plan and are planning some targeted assessment preparation sessions for pupils in the second week of the Easter holidays.

Please get in touch if you need clarification or are worried about your child.

With all best wishes
Mrs F Kite, Headteacher