



151 Newry Road
Kilkeel, Co. Down, BT34 4EU

Dear Parent/Guardian,

15th April 2021

Please find enclosed details of the timing of in-class assessments, being held this term during normal timetabled classes.

With no formal exams this year, schools have been asked to award the grade where they have robust and reliable evidence to show that the student has been working at that grade level either currently or in the recent past. We include the recent past to be term one of the current academic year. Department of Education advice is to try and rely on evidence as close to the end of the year as is possible to give the students every chance in maximising their grades. We will be using data already gathered on your son/daughter's performance and the upcoming assessments will allow students to present further evidence to secure the grade that we believe they are working at.

As mentioned in earlier correspondence, all teaching in school at this stage is directed solely towards these assessments. Full participation in class with commitment to learning and homework is essential. As has been explained to students, these assessments are not public examinations and the outcomes are not the final grade awarded. All students need to prepare well for these assessments but in line with the position of the Minister for Education, these are not high risk examinations and students should be confident that the final grade awarded will reflect the level at which they are working. However, it is also important to note that all the normal school requirements apply to pupils sitting assessments including the rules and regulations as outlined by the examining bodies and JCQ.

If for whatever reason, a student is absent for any of these assessments, the guidance from CCEA allows schools to consider alternative data already gathered from during the year to replace that. In practical terms this means that assessments cannot be sent home to be completed nor can we accommodate them being sat on a different day. To do so would compromise the reliability of the assessment. Only in circumstances where we did not have sufficient data on a student in a certain subject are we allowed to consider putting in place alternative arrangements for sitting assessments other than at the time and place as the other students in the cohort.

We hope this explanation is clear and provides reassurance that no one will be disadvantaged. As this process begins, you will understand that we are not able to share any data with you or your son/daughter about their performance.

Also, please note St Louis will have a staff day on the 14th May for the Centre Determined Grades.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish your son/daughter every success in their assessments.

Kevin Martin
Principal



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